OBAMA ORDERS CLOSURE OF GITMO, PG 7

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OTTAWA • WEEKEND, JANUARY 23-25, 2009 metronews.ca

Music pg 18

L.A. Ink star shares past art, history

Fire forces residents from condo

BLAZE Residents of a downtown condominium high-rise were forced out of their homes for 90 minutes Thursday by a fire in a fourth-floor unit.

Emergency services responded to the call at 154 Nelson St. at around 4:15 p.m.

Firefighters in six pumper trucks and three ladder trucks managed to contain the fire to one unit on the fourth floor of the building. It was extinguished by 4:43 p.m.

Paramedics were dispatched to the scene, but there were no injuries.

By 5:30 p.m., residents were allowed to re-enter the building while investigators remained on scene attempting to determine the cause of the fire.

METRO OTTAWA

Movies pg 13

Renée tastes Canada's chill

Sports pg 10

Girls aim for big leagues

Celebrity Buzz pg 22

Jen plans bash for the big 4-0

Academy Awards **And the nominees are...**

PHIL MCCARTEN/REUTERS

Actor Forest Whitaker, left, and Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences president Sid Ganis announce the contenders in the best actress category at the Academy Awards nominee announcements in Beverly Hills, Calif., yesterday. Among the nominees, clockwise from bottom left, are Anne Hathaway, Angelina Jolie, Melissa Leo, Meryl Streep and Kate Winslet. More coverage, pg 12

Tories plan to go $64 billion in red

Early deficit details get backing from Bank of Canada chief

The federal government is set to plunge deep into deficit — predicting shortfalls of $64 billion over two years — as it dramatically boosts spending to revive Canada's economy.

A senior government official, in advance of Tuesday's budget, announced Thursday that pro-growth spending and tax measures in the budget will drive this year's deficit to $34 billion.

That will be followed by a $30 billion shortfall in 2010-11, the official told the media yesterday, and Ottawa won't see a budget surplus for at least five years.

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney said the government's plan will help Canada quickly leave the global recession behind.

In his latest forecast, Carney said the economy is currently in a severe recession but will begin to bounce back in the second half of this year — partly as a result of Ottawa's economic stimulus strategy.

The deficit is "predominantly" the result of new spending initiatives to restore consumer confidence and keep Canadians working, said the official, who asked not to be named. But falling government revenues, blamed on sagging corporate and individual tax returns, also contribute to the deficit, he said.

"We are designing our action plan to ensure that these deficits are truly short term and not permanent," the official added. "If your spending is short term in nature and programs are time limited, you can predict with much greater degree of certainty that you will not run (a permanent deficit.)" TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Stimulus numbers

- As the government is facing an estimated deficit of $10 billion to $15 billion this year before additional spending measures, the stimulus package should be worth about $20 billion or more in 2009-10.

Traffic stop leads to drug bust; 4 arrested

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

CRIME A routine traffic stop by Gatineau Police on Wednesday led to the arrest of four men and the seizure of crack cocaine, a weapon and a quantity of cash.

At 1 p.m. on Wednesday, police stopped a vehicle and allegedly found crack cocaine, money, and a .12-calibre gun inside the car, said Gatineau police Const. Isabelle Poirier on Thursday.

Following the vehicle stop, they executed a search warrant at a unit at 150 Greber Blvd., where they arrested four men, all in their 20s, at the residence.

Police seized a total of 22.1 grams of crack cocaine valued at $2,200, 10 grams of marijuana, $1,870 in cash and the gun.

Two of the accused were expected to appear in Gatineau court Thursday to answer to charges of possession, breaking the conditions of their release, obstructing police and possessing an illegal firearm.

Vehicle

- Police also seized the vehicle from the traffic stop, which they allege was purchased from the proceeds of crime.

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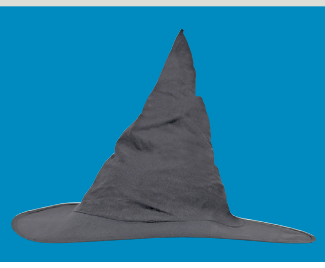
Celebrating 250th anniversary of Robbie Burns' birth

Ottawa's Christ Church Cathedral presents a Robbie Burns concert at 8 p.m. Sunday at 420 Sparks St. My Love is like a Red, Red Rose commemorates the 250th anniversary of the birth of the Scottish poet. Donations to the Dalhousie Food Cupboard are encouraged. METRO OTTAWA

Local



Calling all munchkins

The national tour of The Wizard of Oz is looking for 12 local children ages eight to 13 to perform the roles of munchkins as part of its performing-arts education program. The selected children will be from an existing group and will be based on the best overall group talent. The auditions will take place at the St. Laurent Centre on Saturday, Jan. 31, at 9:30 a.m. For additional details, requirements and restrictions, visit www.wizardofozontour.com. METRO OTTAWA

Both sides quiet on transit strike negotiations

BLACKOUT Days 45, 46 and 47 of the strike could pass quietly this weekend.

The Ottawa transit strike rolls on in a quasi-media blackout, with both sides willing to talk about anything except negotiations.

In a blog posting on Thursday, Mayor Larry O'Brien defended the blackout, stating "It is the opinion of both parties that negotiating in the media does little to further our progress in ending the strike … I also feel it is very important to keep the citizens of Ottawa, who are suffering as a result of this strike, informed on any significant progress and we commit to doing so."

Union representatives would not comment on negotiations, but responded to questions about the 400 per cent increase in overtime billing since 1997.

Last week, OC Transpo general manager Alain Mercier told city council that the current scheduling system had too many short and inefficient runs that were partly responsible for the ballooning overtime bill.

However, Amalgamated Transit Union secretary-treasurer Jim Haddad insists the overtime bill is mostly due to the growth of work outpacing the growth of the workforce.

Until recently, Haddad said they were racking up a lot of overtime because they had to fill in daily for about 70 operators on long-term disability who were still on the schedule. Filling those routes required many drivers to work overtime.

Although working overtime is voluntary, many operators feel duty-bound to fill in for shifts if there is no one available to work the next shift. Haddad said there are times when it is almost impossible to find enough operators to fill in all the scheduled routes.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Valentine's Day Ball committee chairwoman Joy Noonan, left, and Canadian Museum of Civilization executive chef Georges Laurier share some of the goodies to be served at the Valentine's Day Ball with a Grade 3 class visiting the museum Thursday from York Street Public School.

Valentine's Day Ball lets museums plan for kids

TRACEY TONG
tracey.tong@metronews.ca

Of all the museums in the National Capital Region, Danira Beslic likes the Canadian Museum of Civilization best.

"There's a lot of fun things to do," said the eight-year-old Grade 3 student at York Street Public School. "You can play at the Children's Museum or learn about countries."

Her teacher, Delia Craig, agreed.

Museums are a great outing for students, who enjoy hands-on interaction, she said. "I think we are incredibly fortunate to have so many museums a stone's throw away from where we are. The opportunity is fantastic."

The Canadian Museum of Civilization is ensuring every child will get the opportunity to enjoy museum programs through its Valentine's Day Ball, which they announced Thursday.

All proceeds from the Feb. 14 event will support programming, including hands-on activities, games and workshops for children at the museum and its sister institution, the Canadian War Museum.

Last year's event raised more than $57,000 for children's programming.

"Teaching kids about history and culture may not seem like a priority in these economic times, but it's important to open young people's eyes." Committee member Sylvie Morel

Valentine's Day Ball committee chairwoman Joy Noonan said that as a parent, she believes the "value you get from a day at the museum is incomparable."

Her own children have enjoyed the interactive play at the museum, she said.

"If we can tap into their interests, we can stimulate their desire to learn about the world around them," said committee member Sylvie Morel.

"There are many worthy causes competing these days. Teaching kids about history and culture may not seem like a priority in these economic times, but it's important to open young people's eyes to the world around them," she added.

"In these economically challenging times, it is more important than ever to continue offering high-quality programming, which opens children's eyes to the world," agreed museum president and CEO Dr. Victor Rabinovitch.

Be alert, say police, after 2 incidents

TRACEY TONG
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City police are asking the public to be "vigilant" as they investigate the report of a suspicious male linked to two separate incidents in the west end earlier this week.

At approximately 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday, a 17-year-old girl was walking on Knudson Drive near Shaughnessy Crescent in Kanata when a male walking toward her from the opposite direction allegedly inappropriately touched her.

The girl continued walking at a faster pace and subsequently observed the male drive by in a dark green van.

"This incident is very concerning," Ottawa police Staff Sgt. John McGetrick of the sexual assault/child abuse unit said Thursday. "There was physical contact. It was a very aggressive move."

Several days earlier on Monday, an 11-year old boy and his friend said a male in a dark-coloured van followed them as they walked in the area of Salter Crescent at around 5 p.m.

Description

- The suspect in both incidents is described as a white male in his late 30s to early 40s, approximately 6-2, 220 pounds with a stocky build and scruffy facial hair. He was wearing a light-coloured ski jacket and a two-toned tuque at the time of the incident.
- The vehicle is described as a newer model minivan, possibly a Ford Windstar.
- Anyone with info is asked to contact the Ottawa police service sexual assault/child abuse unit at 613-236-1222, ext. 5944, or Crime Stoppers at 613-233-8477 (TIPS).

"We don't want to create fear-mongering, but we want people to be warned," said McGetrick.

"There's probably a lot more people walking than usual with the bus strike. We want them to be vigilant — people with bad intentions might take advantage of the situation."

McGetrick suggests that people walk in pairs, and let someone know when they are leaving an area or when their expected arrival time is.

Lotteries

Ontario Pick 3: 0 7 9; **Ontario Pick 4** : 6 5 4 8
Encore: 2599403
Daily Keno: 1, 4, 5, 7, 19, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 34, 41, 43, 50, 56, 58, 59, 65, 70
Payday: 5, 32, 35 & 64
These results are not official.

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Video Vancouver Taser inquiry hears from victim's mother at **metronews.ca/canada**

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Inadequate heating can cause water pipes to freeze

Residents are being reminded to ensure their indoor air temperature is kept above 8 C in all areas that contain water pipes to avoid freezing. The majority of calls the city receives for frozen water pipes and water meters are a result of inadequate heating and cold air drafts where piping is located in the home. METRO OTTAWA

Alzheimer's can affect all ages

Fundraising walk scheduled for Sunday

TRACEY TONG
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One of the risk factors for Alzheimer's disease is age, but it's not just a disease that affects the elderly.

As the population ages, more people will see someone they know develop Alzheimer's or some other dementia.

That's why Debbie Seto is so touched to see people of all ages participating in the Walk for Memories every year.

"It's amazing … you have kids and parents with babies in strollers participating," said the spokeswoman for the Alzheimer Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County. "You see multi-generational groups walking together."

More than 300 people are expected to attend this year's Walk for Memories, held inside the Carlingwood Mall on Sunday morning. The event's location is popular because of the weather conditions this time of year, Seto said.

Because of increased awareness of the disease, people are diagnosed younger, Seto said.

Since 1996, the event has raised more than $1.4 million across Ontario. Last year, Ottawa's event brought in $120,000, and Seto hopes to duplicate that this weekend.

The money raised this weekend will stay in the area and go toward support programs and research initiatives.

According to Seto, approximately 12,000 people suffer from the disease in Ottawa and Renfrew County. Nationally, that number jumps to 500,000 people.

Awareness

- The walk, which begins at 11 a.m. and features one-, three-, five- and eight-kilometre events, marks National Alzheimer's Awareness Month and is held in 50 communities across Ontario.

Police arrest pair of robbery suspects

Ottawa police have arrested and charged two people in connection with three bank robberies last month.

After an investigation, city police charged a 24-year-old Ottawa man in relation to a December bank robbery.

On Dec. 15, officers responded to a bank robbery at the Scotiabank in the 3300 block of McCarthy Road.

Police said the suspect allegedly passed a note to a teller making a demand for cash and left with an undisclosed amount of money.

David Beauregard was released from police custody yesterday and will appear in court Feb. 23.

Police have also charged an Ottawa teen in connection with two west-end bank robberies in December. On Dec. 29, police responded to a bank robbery at the TD Canada Trust branch in the 1400 block of Richmond Road.

A police investigation revealed the same suspect had allegedly been at the TD Canada Trust branch in the Bayshore Mall earlier that day. Police charged a 14-year-old male with attempt to commit indictable offence, robbery, wearing a disguise and uttering death threats. He cannot be identified under the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

TRACEY TONG/METRO OTTAWA

Neighbourhood mystery **Strike statue**

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

Statues of a parent and child waiting for a bus appeared recently at a stop near the intersection of Crichton and Union streets in New Edinburgh. Cathy MacDonald-Zytveld, who works at the Scone Witch café across the street, said it is a neighbourhood mystery as to who put it there. "I think it's wonderful," she said. "It's to the point and really symbolizes what everyone in the city has been going through in the last few weeks."

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This Pre-Apprenticeship Training Program is funded by the Government of Ontario.

News in brief

FIRE An early morning fire at an east-end box company caused about $200,000 of damage Thursday. Firefighters were called to the offices of Capital Box at 1475 Startop Rd., near Cyrville Road at 2:42 a.m. It took around 36 firefighters in seven vehicles nearly an hour to put the fire out. The fire was contained to the front office and did not spread to the warehouse. The fire is under investigation.

BUDGET On Thursday evening, Carleton University is hosting a seminar on economics, politics and public policy with a panel of experts to make sense of the federal budget scheduled for Tuesday. Following brief presentations by panelists and a general discussion on the budget, audience members will get a chance to vote on whether the budget deserves the confidence of the House of Commons.

TIM WIECLAWSKI/METRO OTTAWA

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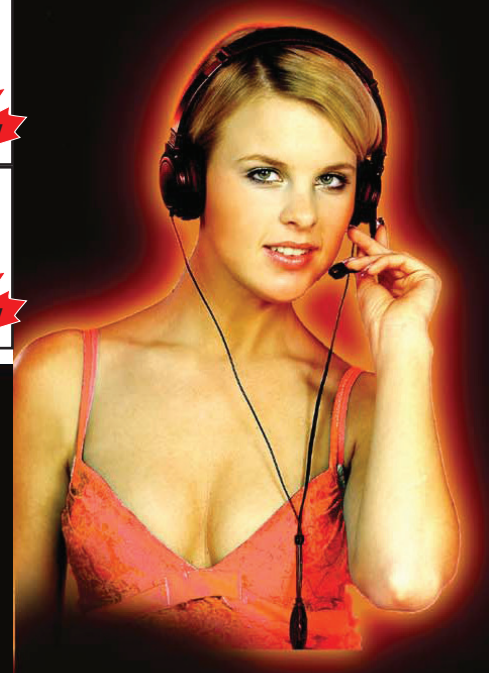

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Rising temperatures killing trees: Report

Trees in western North America are dying twice as quickly as they did 30 years ago, with rising average temperatures almost certainly to blame, researchers reported Thursday. These thinner and weaker forests will become more vulnerable to wildfires and may soak up less carbon dioxide, in turn speeding up global warming, they said. **REUTERS**

Canada

Blowin' in the wind

The government of Ontario was expected to announce Friday another $1.3-billion worth of renewable-energy projects, most of it wind, as part of its ongoing effort to green up the province's power mix, Torstar News Service has learned. Ontario expects to have 1,200 megawatts of wind power capacity in operation this summer. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hormone therapy fears unfounded, MDs say

Hormone therapy is a safe and viable option for some Canadian women who want relief from hot flashes, night sweats and other severe symptoms of menopause, a panel of experts said Thursday.

The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada said women and doctors have been needlessly frightened away from hormone therapy after rafts of troubling reports linked it with an increased risk for breast cancer, heart attacks and strokes.

But new research — and reanalysis of old evidence — has found short-term use of hormone therapy by women early in menopause is the most effective way to alleviate symptoms of menopause and has "little appreciable effect on risk," said Robert Reid, a co-author of the guidelines and chair of the division of reproductive endocrinology and infertility at Queen's University.

Hormone therapy has been embroiled in controversy since the U.S. National Institutes of Health suddenly stopped the Women's Health Initiative trial in July 2002 after investigators linked the drugs with higher rates of breast cancer, heart attacks and stroke.

This is the third time since 2002 the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) has backed hormone therapy to alleviate menopause symptoms for some women.

> **"Cardiovascular risk does not apply to women between the age of 50 and 60."**
> Robert Reid

Short-term use of hormone therapy in early menopause does not increase the risk of heart disease, SOGC says, and has "little appreciable effect" on breast cancer risk if used for five years or less.

"Cardiovascular risk does not apply to women between the age of 50 and 60," said Reid.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Tonya Martin
Student, Human Resources Management

ALGONQUIN COLLEGE

BRIAN TOWIE/METRO CANADA

Other Half co-chairs Susan Go, left, and Amy Tam get the word out about Chinese stem cell donations at a Thursday news conference in Toronto.

Waiting for a match

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

HEALTH Shu Yi Fung knows how important and difficult it is to find a stem cell match to help cure her leukemia.

The Chinese-Canadian has been waiting for a donor for the past year-and-a-half in order to receive a bone marrow transplant.

But with no match found among her siblings, Fung faces a less than 10 per cent chance of finding a match, like other people of Chinese origin awaiting the procedure.

> **"I'm appealing on behalf of all leukemia patients to all you healthy people."**
> Shu Yi Fung

Comparatively, Caucasian patients have an 80 per cent success rate. That's because ethnic Chinese are direly underrepresented on worldwide donor networks.

That's why Fung hopes her fellow Chinese can help by registering with OneMatch, a national stem cell and marrow network.

"It would be a very precious gift for us during our Chinese Lunar New Year," Fung said in a statement at a news conference.

"I'm appealing on behalf of all leukemia patients to all you healthy people."

It's a state of affairs that Other Half, a group of concerned Chinese-Canadians spearheading this campaign, wants to change.

Partnering with OneMatch, the group is working to get out the word on how important it is for Canada's Chinese community to register on OneMatch's database.

For more information, visit www.onematch.ca or www.chinesestemcell.ca.

Piercing condoms not sexual assault, N.S. judge rules

RACHEL BOOMER
Metro Canada

DECISION A Dartmouth, N.S., man who put holes in his girlfriend's condoms in an attempt to get her pregnant didn't sexually assault her, a Nova Scotia Supreme Court judge ruled Thursday.

Craig Jaret Hutchinson, 38, had been charged with aggravated sexual assault in the case. Justice Gerald Moir acquitted him, ruling Hutchinson, who sabotaged the condoms after his girlfriend began suggesting she wanted to break up, didn't expose her to a "significant risk" of physical harm.

"The evidence suggests Mr. Hutchinson did something that was not only fraudulent, it was dastardly — but it does not prove sexual assault," Moir said.

"Whether it proves some other crime, I don't know."

Hutchinson smiled, but didn't comment to reporters. His ex-girlfriend wasn't in court when the verdict was read.

ShareYourViews
ottawaletters@metronews.ca

Hiring 9,000 nurses to take a while

HEALTH Ontario will take longer to hire 9,000 nurses, but Health Minister David Caplan says a nurse looking for a job in the province can still find one today.

Last October, the Ontario government announced in an effort to save $50 million, it would stretch out the timelines for hiring 9,000 nurses.

The government has not set a date as to when the promise will be fulfilled, be it in 2011, or in 2012.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

SHOOTING The daytime shooting of a man on a Toronto subway platform Thursday disrupted downtown commuter traffic for hours. The 19-year-old victim, whose name was not released, was rushed to hospital and was listed in serious condition. Police are searching for a suspect, and say the victim is cooperating.

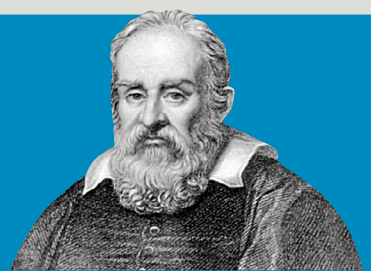
ALBERTA Drumheller Institution was put under lockdown Thursday after an inmate was attacked. The 36-year-old was rushed to hospital after he was discovered injured at about 8 a.m. As of Thursday afternoon, he was in hospital in stable condition.

SASKATCHEWAN A second man has been charged in connection with a shooting that injured a six-year-old girl in Saskatoon last week, CBC News Online reports. The girl has been in hospital since the shooting last Friday night. According to the Saskatoon StarPhoenix, the girl suffered a head wound. She's listed in stable condition.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

37.8 million inauguration viewers still lower than expected
Almost 37.8 million Americans watched the full day of television coverage of U.S. President Barack Obama's inauguration from their homes -- less than the record numbers expected. REUTERS

World



Looking through Galileo's eyes

Italian and British scientists want to exhume the body of 16th-century astronomer Galileo for DNA tests to determine if his severe vision problems may have affected some of his findings. "If we knew exactly what was wrong with his eyes, we could use computer models to recreate what he saw in his telescope," said Paolo Galluzzi, director of the Museum of History and Science in Florence, the city where Galileo is buried. REUTERS

Obama focuses on U.S. image

U.S. President Barack Obama yesterday ordered the closing of Guantanamo prison and named foreign policy troubleshooters for the Middle East and Iran as he moves to repair America's tarnished image.

Obama set a one-year deadline for shutting Guantanamo and barred harsh treatment of terrorism suspects held there.

The prison in Cuba — where prisoners have been detained for years without charges, some subjected what human rights groups say amounted to torture — had damaged America's moral standing.

Obama waded further into his foreign policy plans by paying a visit to the State Department to welcome Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, who was confirmed by the U.S. Senate Wednesday.

Iraq prepared

- Iraq's military is "prepared for the worst" if Obama orders a swift withdrawal of U.S. troops, its defence minister said.

His foreign policy goals include pursuing broader engagement overseas than the Bush administration, which was criticized for go-it-alone "cowboy diplomacy," and refocusing the fight against terrorism away from the Iraq war.

He yesterday named George Mitchell, a former senator, as an envoy who will try to jump-start Arab-Israeli peace talks. He also tapped former ambassador to the UN Richard Holbrooke as a special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan. REUTERS

KEVIN LAMARQUE / REUTERS

U.S. President Barack Obama, left, and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton chat Thursday after remarks at the State Department in Washington, D.C.

Clinton vows new era in diplomacy

FOREIGN POLICY Hillary Clinton officially took the helm at the State Department on Thursday, promising a new era in U.S. diplomacy but tough times ahead.

About 1,000 employees crammed the department and cheered when Clinton arrived for her first day as secretary of state. REUTERS

UN launches aid for Gaza children

MIDDLE EAST The UN is launching a major aid effort to help tens of thousands of children in the aftermath of Israel's military campaign in Gaza, a top aid official said Thursday.

Children, who form the majority of the 1.5 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, bore the brunt of the onslaught by Israeli troops, UNICEF said. More than 400 children were among the 1,314 Palestinians killed and more than 1,800 children were injured, many suffering amputations or burns.

UNICEF aims to offer counselling and first aid. Technical teams are aiming to open schools by mid-February and to quickly repair key water-supply systems. REUTERS

House approves $304B stimulus

FUNDING A House panel yesterday approved a $304-billion US package of business and individual tax breaks and aid to the unemployed that is to be part of a huge $825-billion economic stimulus.

The package includes a temporary refundable tax credit for workers and tax incentives for renewable energy. REUTERS

News in brief

MELAMINE A Chinese court Thursday sentenced two men to death for their role in a tainted-milk scandal that killed at least six children, while the woman most widely blamed for the tragedy got life in jail. Nearly 300,000 children fell ill last year after drinking milk intentionally laced with melamine, a toxic industrial compound that can give a fake positive on protein tests. REUTERS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Ringing the cellphone alarm

New study suggest increased brain tumour risk for kids

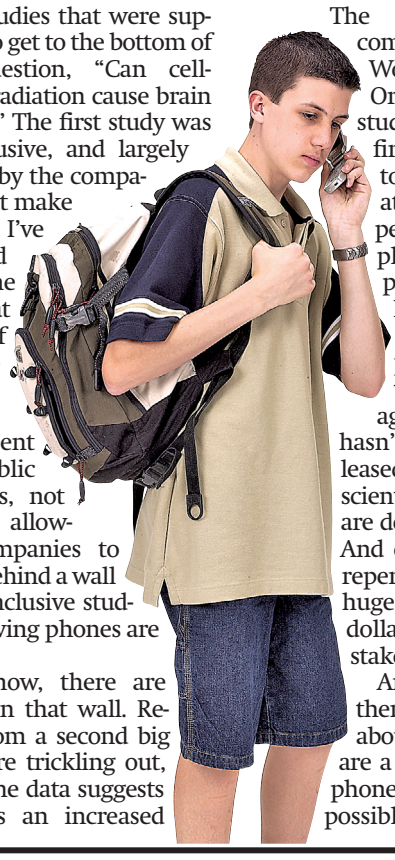
Marketplace

It's the dream toy of today's kids. Something they can use to play games. Text best friends. Download the latest Jonas Brothers ring-tone. And call mom. That's right, kids today want cellphones. A survey we did of 1,000 Canadian tweens shows that almost half of them already have a cellphone.

Parents like the idea, too. Companies are keen to market cellphones as a security tool, a way to stay on top of children's whereabouts. Some even come with GPS tracking.

Today's kids are set to become the longest-term users of cellphones, starting at younger ages than ever before. Great for the phone business, but some scientists are ringing a cautionary alarm bell.

I've been following the debate about cellphone safety for 15 years. During that time, there have been two huge studies that were supposed to get to the bottom of the question, "Can cellphone radiation cause brain cancer?" The first study was inconclusive, and largely funded by the companies that make phones. I've reported on the fact that most of the research money was spent on public relations, not science, allowing companies to stand behind a wall of inconclusive studies showing phones are safe.



But now, there are cracks in that wall. Results from a second big study are trickling out, and some data suggests there is an increased risk of brain tumours. Some scientists say that this is cause for concern. Others say the data is flawed.

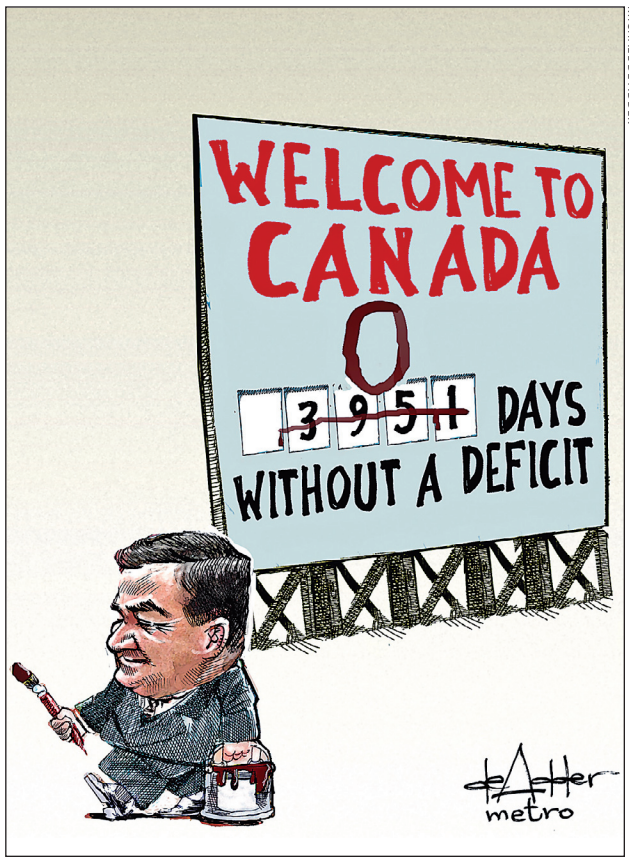
This isn't fringe science. The new data comes from a World Health Organization study. It's the first of its kind to take a look at what happens when people use cellphones over a long period. The final report was due three years ago, but it still hasn't been released because the scientists involved are deeply divided. And of course the repercussions are huge. Billions of dollars are at stake.

And that's why there is concern about kids. They are a growing cellphone market, and possibly more vulnerable to cellphone radiation. This year, a Swedish scientist released preliminary data that shows kids who start using phones in their teens have a five times higher risk of developing brain cancer.

In the last two years, warnings about kids using cellphones have been issued in Germany, the U.K., France, Belgium, Israel, Russia, India and Finland. But in Canada? Even though this new evidence is out, Health Canada still says; "there is currently no convincing evidence of serious health effects."

So, until the answer is clear, what should parents do? Cellphones are a useful tool, but kids could limit their use. Make shorter calls. And remember that phones do emit radiation, so try to hold it a few centimetres from your head. Until we know more, a little bit of caution can't hurt anyone.

Wendy Mesley is a co-host of CBC News: Marketplace, Canada's award-winning consumer affairs show, and a regular back-up host with CBC News: The National. CBC News: Marketplace airs each Friday night at 8:30 p.m. (9 p.m. NT) on CBC Television.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Compass bearings: The week went thataway!

UrbanCompass

• The TD Canada Trust at 888 Meadowlands Dr., which was robbed Tuesday afternoon, seems increasingly popular with local stickup artists.

This week's holdup at the Meadowlands branch was the first since, well, last month, when two thugs arrived with a handgun and departed with an undisclosed amount of cash.

Earlier last year, one man robbed the branch twice, on March 1, and then again on March 10. The same industrious perp is suspected of knocking over a Bank of Montreal on March 17.

"It does happen that they will come back if they find the place nice and comfortable," Det. Dan Simser told the Ottawa Citizen after the repeat heist.

Nobody has been hurt, but it might be time to rejig security at Meadowlands to make it a little less "comfortable" for the bank's growing self-serve clientele — or just set up a drive-thru lane for the getaway cars.

• Metro, the big-hearted R2D2 of Ottawa newspapers, has no desire to get into a size thing with our venerable paper of record, but the Citizen has announced it will shrink by an inch next month.

Some Liberal or NDP supporters might argue the conservative-leaning daily was already narrow enough, but the reason for the smaller format is simple: It's cheaper.

The price of newsprint has risen as ad revenues have sunk. The paper's heavily indebted owner, Canwest Global, announced 560 job cuts in November. Lean times, lean paper.

The Citizen last week assured readers that thanks to the magic of modern layout, less is more, or at least that not much less: "Our designers have adjusted the way we put the paper together to minimize the loss of space. In most cases, there is no loss of content at all."

• As we joylessly observe 45 days of this acrimonious transit strike, a note of reconciliation from the Oblate Partners in Mission, organizers of an ecumenical service Friday evening at St. Joseph's Parish.

"This is a liturgy to ask for God's mercy, to pray for healing the many broken relationships within our city due to this strike, and encourage mercy, healing, and hope in each of us," reads the Oblates' release.

In a slightly different spirit, Wilde's, the gay sex shop on Bank Street, displays a sign offering free lubricant to OC Transpo drivers, and a frank, unprintable suggestion of what to do with it.

Steve Collins lives, writes and walks in Ottawa.

Letters

Citizens left out in cold during transit strike

The economic, social and environmental costs associated with the strike are completely unacceptable for a major metropolitan city.

It is important to note peoples' livelihoods are being hurt, their quality of life is deteriorating, the local and global environment is being damaged and the health and well-being of the most vulnerable people are being threatened — I have personally witnessed an elderly woman slip and fall, a man on crutches struggle to make his way across poorly plowed sidewalks and several people in wheelchairs who would still be stuck in the snow if it were not for kind strangers. Given the cold weather, we are fortunate lives have not been lost.

These problems are compounded by the fact neither side of the dispute has been willing to negotiate in good faith, using the citizens of Ottawa as pawns in their respective negotiating strategies. On the one hand, the transit union has been counting on public outrage to force the city to concede to the union's terms; on the other hand, the city has been hoping union members would give in to the city's terms once they began to feel the financial pinch. Neither of these strategies are responsible or effective negotiating techniques and neither will yield a satisfactory outcome.

I urge both sides to return to the negotiating table.

Neither the union nor the city can afford to maintain entrenched positions while the union members and citizens of Ottawa are left out in the cold.

NATHANIEL READ-ELLIS, OTTAWA

Quote of the Day

"I would love for them to be right, but I think they're wide-eyed optimists right now."

— Derek Holt, economist at Scotia Capital reacting to a suggestion by the Bank of Canada that the recession will be harsh, but short. REUTERS

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Vuitton, Hugo Boss upbeat on Christmas trade 9
Top European fashion houses Louis Vuitton and Hugo Boss said Christmas trading proved robust, sending a comforting message to the retail industry. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

EDITOR: FERMIN DESOUZA, FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Swift recovery seen

But top bank says sharp contraction this quarter

The Canadian economy will contract by an exceptionally sharp 4.8 per cent in the first quarter of this year and continue to shrink through mid-year, but the recovery will be swifter than in the past two recessions, the Bank of Canada said Thursday.

Signaling the economy is now in the most dramatic part of the downturn, the central bank said gross domestic product likely shrank by 2.3 per cent in the fourth quarter of last year and would decline by one per cent in the second quarter of this year before returning to growth.

It said the growing output gap would not be eliminated until mid-2011, but this would be about a year or more faster than in the past, partly because inflation expectations are better anchored and the bank has therefore been able to cut interest rates to lower levels. REUTERS

Not as bad

- The Bank of Canada's projections of three quarters of recession this time contrasts with six quarters in 1981-82 and four quarters of contraction in the early 1990s.

Flat sales **Sony sounds warning**

TORU HANAI/REUTERS

A woman walks past a Sony Corp. flat-screen TV at the company's headquarters in Tokyo. Sony warned Thursday it would post a $2.9 billion US annual operating loss — its biggest loss ever — due to sliding demand, a stronger yen and costs to restructure its ailing electronics operations.

Vacation bookings good, but analysts warn of drop

VACATIONS The desire of Canadians to escape the cold and snow with a March Break getaway has so far trumped concerns about an economic recession — but cracks are beginning to form in the packaged holiday industry.

Flight Centre spokesperson Allison Wallace said this month will be a litmus test when it comes to gauging the outlook for 2009.

"January is traditionally our busiest month for inquiries and bookings and we're up on last year," she said.

Analysts, however, say it's a matter of time before Canadians put the brakes on unnecessary travel.

The threat of slumping demand comes at a particularly bad time for tour operators, which have collectively increased the seats they're selling in the North American market by more than 15 cent this winter, according to analysts. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Business in brief

RIM PENALTY Canadian regulators are seeking a record penalty as high as $100 million from the top two executives of Research In Motion, Jim Balsillie and Mike Lazaridis, for their role in a stock-option accounting controversy dating back to 1996, the Globe and Mail newspaper reported.

OUTLOOK Apple Inc. shares rose more than seven per cent Thursday a day after it announced stronger than expected financial results and solid outlook for the current quarter despite the weak economy. While it sold fewer iPhones than expected, iPod sales beat analyst estimates. But Apple shares are still off almost 55 per cent from the start of 2008. REUTERS

Retail data shows bite of recession

DECLINE Canadian retail sales dropped by 2.4 per cent in November from October, the steepest decline in nearly 11 years, and analysts said they expected worse to come as the recession starts to bite harder.

The November decline easily exceeded the 1.5 per cent fall expected by market analysts and was the largest since the 4.5 per cent plunge recorded in January 1998, when much of Eastern Canada was hit by an ice storm.

The value of sales at gasoline stations plummeted by 14.9 per cent from October, reflecting lower prices. Sales at new car dealers fell 3.4 per cent. Excluding the automotive sector, retail sales in November were flat. Overall retail sales in volume terms fell 0.6 per cent from October. REUTERS

Microsoft misses profit, cuts jobs

WARNING Microsoft Corp. stunned Wall Street with disappointing results that included plans to slash up to 5,000 jobs and a warning that revenue will almost certainly drop over the next two quarters.

Microsoft's elimination of 5,000 jobs — 1,400 on Thursday — amounts to about five per cent of its 96,000 work force.

Microsoft faces a shift by PC buyers to cheaper netbooks. The stripped-down laptops can run Windows, but Microsoft makes more on each sale of Windows for a PC than it does for a netbook. REUTERS

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First prize: Being a training-camp tackling dummy

Hall of Fame Dallas Cowboys receiver Michael Irvin, left, is launching a reality TV show in which 12 "football neophytes" will compete for a spot on the Dallas Cowboys' training camp roster. The Cowboys confirmed that one of their 80 roster spots will go to the show's winner. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports

Venus bounced down under

Venus Williams was knocked out of the Australian Open on Thursday, stunned by Spanish player Carla Suarez Navarro in the second round. Suarez Navarro rallied from 5-2 down in the third and saved a match point before beating Williams 2-6, 6-3, 7-5. There was no upset of top seeds Daniel Nestor of Toronto and Nenad Zimonjic of Serbia in their first-round doubles match. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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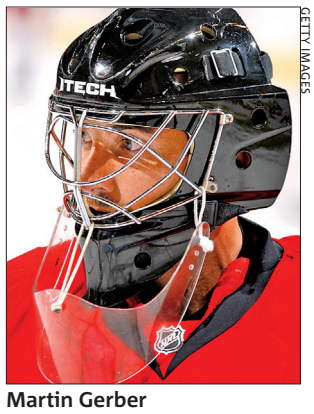

GETTY IMAGES

Martin Gerber

Gerber sent to minors

NHL The Senators' Martin Gerber accepted a conditioning assignment with Binghamton of the AHL Thursday, essentially the first step to the club parting company with the goaltender.

With the emergence of rookie Brian Elliott, who has started three straight games, the 34-year-old has been deemed expendable.

Gerber hasn't dressed in any of Ottawa's past three games and, after meeting with general manager Bryan Murray, was on his way to Binghamton, N.Y. last night, where he's expected to suit up for the Baby Sens Friday and Saturday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Crosby out of all-star game

NHL Pittsburgh Penguins captain Sidney Crosby has withdrawn from Sunday's NHL All-Star Game because of injury, and Tampa Bay's Martin St. Louis will take his spot on the Eastern Conference roster.

Crosby has been battling a knee injury, which forced him to miss last Friday's game against Anaheim. Crosby, who was voted a starter for this year's contest, did not play in last year's event because of a high ankle sprain.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Two girls and one common dream

MARTY YORK
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They live in different worlds, speak different languages and play different sports.

Yet it's uncanny that Japan's Eri Yoshida and Canada's Brigette Lacquette have so much in common.

Both are 16, both are dominating male opponents and both are attracting excessive attention because of their abilities and potential.

Yoshida is blowing away batters with a remarkable sidearm knuckleball that recently landed her a professional contract in an all-male Japanese baseball league. She's being viewed in Japan as a pioneer and a symbol of the changing status of women in her country.

Lacquette is astonishing scouts by thoroughly outplaying male opponents in the Western Manitoba AA Midget Hockey League. She is her league's top talent. She was the youngest player at the recent World Under-18 women's hockey championship in Germany and was chosen best defenceman.

"Several scouts have told me that, if Brigette continues in the direction she's going, she'll be the greatest female hockey player in

REUTERS

Eri Yoshida signed a professional contract with a Japanese baseball team.

Canadian history," said Scott Taylor, sports editor of Grass Roots News, Manitoba's aboriginal newspaper. "She's one of the few players I've seen who can do everything all game with her head up. She's so fast that she flies by opponents. And she's a great playmaker."

Brigette lives in Mallard, Man. "We're nowhere," said her father, Terrence, a Metis who has lived in Mallard his entire life. "Our community has about 80 adults, 40 kids, 20 dogs and 15 cats."

Still, dozens of universities — including Cornell, Providence, Minnesota and North Dakota — have found her and are bombarding her with expressions of interest.

Brigette, though, is only 5-5 and so, barring a serious growth spurt, don't expect her to break the NHL's sex barrier.

Yoshida, though, has a serious chance to advance to MLB. She's only 5-0 but knuckleballers don't need size or strength. They need only to fool batters. Yoshida recently left a line of nine veteran male batters hitless and baseball types think she could seriously perfect her pitch to major league calibre.

Bridgette Lacquette, left, with a friend, was named top blueliner at the under-18 women's hockey championship.

"She can pitch," said Yoshihiro Nakada, her manager in the Kansai Independent League. "The media attention we get from her is most welcome, but that's not why she is on our team. She's with us because she's an excellent pitcher."

Yoshida started pitching in Grade 2, after her father showed her a video of Boston Red Sox knuckleballer Tim Wakefield.

"I'm honoured that she patterned herself after me," Wakefield was quoted as saying recently. "I've heard great things about her. Apparently, she's amazing. I wish her the best of luck. Maybe I can learn something from her eventually. Nothing surprises me any more, so I wouldn't be surprised if she follows in the footsteps of other Japanese pitchers and winds up in the big leagues some day."

"The world is progressing," said Machiko Osawa, a professor at Japan Women's University. "The United States has an African-American president and Eri Yoshida has been accepted in the conservative world of sports.

"These are historical times."

Koskie wants to make comeback with Team Canada

While several Canadians are either not able or not interested in playing for their country's team at the World Baseball Classic in March, there's one who's quietly been busting his guts for the chance to participate.

In fact, after more than two seasons of inactivity because of post-concussion syndrome, Manitoban Corey Koskie is desperately trying to crack Team Canada's roster for what very likely would be his last hurrah. Metro has learned the ex-Blue Jays third baseman has an agreement in writing with general manager Greg Hamilton that stipulates he'd be added to Team Canada's 45-man, preliminary roster if he is deemed physically fit by Feb. 1.

"My wife and I have talked lots about this," Koskie confirmed in an interview, "and we've agreed that (playing for Canada) would be a great way to retire."

Koskie, 35, said he has been working out diligently for months and has received permission from the Minnesota Twins to train at their camp in Fort Myers, Fla., in February if he gets the green light from Team Canada.

To find out how a columnist unwittingly saved Nick Kypreos' job, check out Marty York's NHL Report at metronews.ca/nhlreport.

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

Koskie starred for the Twins from 1998 through 2004. He was the Jays' marquee free-agent acquisition for 2005 but struggled with injuries and was dealt to Milwaukee after the season. Concussions sidelined him while with the Brewers in 2006 and he had to sit out 2007 and 2008.

Should Koskie crack Team Canada's final, 28-man roster, he'd unlikely play much. Manager Ernie Whitt plans to start the Kansas City Royals' Mark Teahen at third base, the Houston Astros' Chris Barnwell at shortstop, the Washington Nationals' Peter Orr at second and Minnesota's Justin Morneau at first.

- Doug Berry, who coached the Blue Bombers to the Grey Cup game in 2007 and was fired by Winnipeg after the 2008 season, is desperately seeking work after the Toronto Argonauts rejected his applications to become their head or assistant coach … Look for the Argos to acquire quarterback Kevin Glenn, at least as a backup to Kerry Joseph, now that new Winnipeg coach Mike Kelly intends to trade the veteran … Despite efforts by Argos co-owner David Cynamon to downplay it, Michael (Pinball) Clemons is indeed out as the club's chief shot-caller — as reported here Tuesday — and will take a significant pay cut to stay on in an ambassador role … The Hamilton Tiger-Cats, meanwhile, have told QB Casey Printers he's not welcome back unless he accepts a pay cut that would reduce his $450,000-a-year salary to less than $200,000.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

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Movies&Entertainment

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Movies

Button tops Oscar noms Pg 12

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button was the big leader at the announcement of this year's Academy Awards, receiving 13 nominations — including best picture, best actor and best adapted screenplay.

movies Pg 14

Inkheart's screen adaptation pales in comparison to novel

music Pg 17

New Pornographers frontman goes solo

7th heaven Pg 21

See why this revamped hybrid is making it into our hot list

Also opening this week

Underworld: Rise of The Lycans opens in theatres this Friday. As there were no press previews, there will be a review of the film in Monday's edition of Metro.

Movies

⊕⊕⊕⊕⊕ A CLASSIC; ⊕⊕⊕⊕ EXCELLENT; ⊕⊕⊕ GOOD; ⊕⊕ FAIR; ⊕ POOR

Talking Oscars

What the stars are saying about their Academy nominations:

Brad Pitt

"This is a great honor for the movie, and I'm especially happy for David Fincher, for without him there would be no Ben Button."

— BRAD PITT, BEST ACTOR, THE CURIOUS CASE OF BENJAMIN BUTTON
PARAMOUNT STATEMENT

"My wife (Diane Lane) called me. It's her birthday and she said, 'It's the best present I could have gotten.' She sung me a happy nomination birthday song."

— JOSH BROLIN, BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR, MILK
PEOPLE.COM

Angelina Jolie

"Working with Clint Eastwood was a reward in itself that will last me a lifetime. It has been an exceptional year for acting, and I am honoured to be in the company of these talented actors whose performances all deserve this recognition."

— ANGELINA JOLIE, BEST ACTRESS
USWEEKLY.COM

"It is such a thrill to be recognized in this category with these remarkably talented women. I was with my parents and my dog when I got the news and we were all overjoyed — although I'm not sure my dog knew what was going on. This is a great day to be an actress!"

— ANNE HATHAWAY, BEST ACTRESS, RACHEL GETTING MARRIED
PEOPLE.COM

Kate Winslet

"I'm extremely happy to have been nominated. And very fortunate. Playing Hanna Schmitz will always remain one of the biggest challenges I've ever been blessed with."

— KATE WINSLET, BEST ACTRESS, THE READER
PEOPLE.COM

(Clockwise from left) Slumdog Millionaire received 10 nominations, including best picture; Gus van Sant's Milk picked up some major nominations, including best actor for Sean Penn. Anne Hathaway got a best actress nod for Rachel Getting Married; Mickey Rourke was nominated for The Wrestler; and Waltz With Bashir picked up a nomination for best foreign film.

The race begins

Button, Slumdog lead Oscar nominations

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, a drama in which Brad Pitt plays a man who ages backward, led the field of Oscar contenders with 13 nominations, organizers said Thursday.

Slumdog Millionaire, the tale of an impoverished orphan's improbable victory on an Indian television game show, followed with 10, while the Batman sequel The Dark Knight and the gay-rights saga Milk each landed eight.

Benjamin Button, Slumdog Millionaire and Milk will vie for best picture at the 81st annual Academy Awards, alongside The Reader and Frost/Nixon. All five also had best director nominations.

Clint Eastwood's recent box office champ Gran Torino was notably snubbed, with no nominations.

As expected, late Australian actor Heath Ledger was nominated for his supporting role as the villainous Joker in The Dark Knight.

The Dark Knight, the biggest box office smash since Titanic in 1997, had been seen as having an outside shot at a best picture slot but all of its other nominations ended up being in technical categories.

With 13 nominations, Benjamin Button falls one short of the record shared by All About Eve (1959) and Titanic. Its nominations included best actor for Pitt, best director for David Fincher, best supporting actress for Taraji P. Henson and best adapted screenplay for Eric Roth and Robin Swicord.

Loosely based on a short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Benjamin Button has been a commercial and critical success, and will likely combine with The Dark Knight to boost the Oscar's ratings.

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

In recent years, Academy voters have favored smaller, arthouse pictures and TV viewers stayed away in droves.

"It is a good across-the-board look at movies of the past year," said Sid Ganis, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. "I like the list because it is somewhat not as predicted. It goes from little old Slumdog to big Benjamin Button."

Meryl Streep, 59, already the all-time acting Oscar record holder with 14 nominations, landed her 15th for her lead role in Doubt, in which she plays a vindictive nun.

Other leading films included the animated feature WALL-E with six nominations and Doubt, Frost/Nixon and The Reader with five each.

- The Oscars will be presented Feb. 22 at the Kodak Theater in Hollywood. Australian actor Hugh Jackman will host. REUTERS

Ledger's Joker strikes again

NOMINATION Heath Ledger's action movie villain The Joker is getting the last laugh over Hollywood. The Australian actor's best supporting actor Oscar nomination Thursday came exactly a year after he died of an accidental prescription-drug overdose and was a rare exception to the rule that Oscar voters overlook action hero movies.

Not only did Ledger help the Batman sequel The Dark Knight become the biggest movie since Titanic, but he also picked up a slew of awards for his chilling but compelling role as The Joker.

Thursday's Oscar nomination put Ledger in line for only the second posthumous Academy Award to be handed out to an actor. Peter Finch won for 1976's Network about two months after he suffered a fatal heart attack, aged 60.

"Oscar voters are notorious snobs who turn up their noses at superhero movies. This may be popcorn, but it is gourmet popcorn," said Tom O'Neil, a movie columnist. REUTERS

List of nominees

Best Picture

- The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Frost/Nixon; Milk; The Reader; Slumdog Millionaire.

Best Actor

- Richard Jenkins - The Visitor; Frank Langella - Frost/Nixon; Sean Penn - Milk; Brad Pitt - The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Mickey Rourke - The Wrestler.

Best Actress

- Anne Hathaway - Rachel Getting Married; Angelina Jolie - Changeling; Melissa Leo - Frozen River; Meryl Streep - Doubt; Kate Winslet - The Reader.

Best Supporting Actor

- Josh Brolin - Milk; Robert Downey Jr. - Tropic Thunder; Philip Seymour Hoffman - Doubt; Heath Ledger - The Dark Knight; Michael Shannon - Revolutionary Road

Best Supporting Actress

- Amy Adams - Doubt; Penelope Cruz - Vicky Cristina Barcelona; Viola Davis - Doubt; Taraji P. Henson - The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Marisa Tomei - The Wrestler.

Best Director

- David Fincher - The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; Ron Howard - Frost/Nixon; Gus Van Sant - Milk; Stephen Daldry - The Reader; Danny Boyle - Slumdog Millionaire

Best Animated Feature

- Bolt; Kung-Fu Panda; WALL-E.

Best Foreign Language Film

- The Baader Meinhof Complex - Germany; The Class - France; Departures - Japan; Revanche - Austria; Waltz with Bashir - Israel

Best Foreign Language Film

- The Baader Meinhof Complex - Germany; The Class - France; Departures - Japan; Revanche - Austria; Waltz with Bashir - Israel

Best Adapted Screenplay

- Eric Roth and Robin Swicord, The Curious Case of Benjamin Button; John Patrick Shanley, Doubt; Peter Morgan, Frost/Nixon; David Hare, The Reader; Simon Beaufoy, Slumdog Millionaire.

Best Original Screenplay

- Courtney Hunt, Frozen River; Mike Leigh, Happy-Go-Lucky; Martin McDonagh, In Bruges; Dustin Lance Black, Milk; Andrew Stanton, Jim Reardon and Pete Docter, "WALL-E."

Original Score

- The Curious Case of Benjamin Button, Alexandre Desplat; Defiance, James Newton Howard; Milk, Danny Elfman; Slumdog Millionaire, A.R. Rahman; WALL-E, Thomas Newman.
- More nominees at metronews.ca

Correction
The Uninvited opens in theatres across Canada on Jan. 30, not this Friday. An incorrect date appeared in Wednesday's issue of Metro.

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Star pair about Town

Zellweger, Connick Jr. dish on rom-com

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

"I refuse to be upstaged by Mother Nature!" shouted actor-musician Harry Connick Jr. in a rattling West Hollywood hotel room recently. See, together with co-star Rénee Zellweger, he was promoting their latest movie when a California earthquake suddenly struck.

Only it didn't. After a few minutes and some nervous laughs, everyone realized the vibrations were in fact, due to some aggressive machinery on the floor below and indeed not Mother Nature.

Still, if nothing else, the impromptu moment gave us all a glimpse into the type of unrehearsed levity the pair had just experienced making their latest romantic-comedy New In Town — in theatres next Friday.

Renee Zellweger plays an executive who goes to Minnesota to shut down a plant in the romantic comedy New In Town.

"The prospect of working with Renée and the idea I had about working with her (was what) really made me want to do it," says Connick Jr., before joking dryly: "Unfortunately none of the things I thought would happen happened, but still the idea of it was great."

The story of an ambitious executive (Zellweger) who temporarily relocates to Minnesota to shut down a plant run by a rugged union boss (Connick Jr.), New In Town was actually filmed in Winnipeg last year during a record-breaking cold snap. Like the earthquake-that-wasn't, the cast refused to let Mother Nature dampen their spirits.

Movie feature

"I don't think there was a day when we weren't laughing until our eyelids were frozen together from tears," said Zellweger, adding that such extreme weather may have actually helped bond the group.

As for living in Manitoba over the winter, Zellweger was happy to remain "new in town" herself and admits, like her character, she too lacks a certain doggedness to reside in climates where the temperature is low and the snow is deep.

"The tenacity of the people was just so impressive. To me, when you look outside, you think, 'where's the road? I guess there's no driving today?' but that's not the case," said a surprised Zellweger. "Everybody just gets up and gets on with it like it's normal."

Twilight actress off to Adventureland

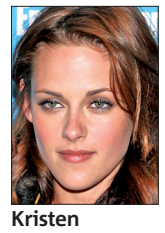
FEATURE Vampire romance Twilight hurtled Kristen Stewart to the kind of fame that can turn a life into a roller coaster ride, so it seems appropriate that her new movie revolves around an amusement park.

Adventureland, which premiered this week at the Sundance Film Festival, is one of a string of quirky movies Stewart, 18, has starred-in since her first film at age 11.

But none of those movies ever brought the actress the sort of attention she has received the last two months since Twilight struck gold at box offices with more than $324 million US worldwide since its November debut.

In the movie, Stewart portrayed Bella Swan, a love-struck teen adored by millions of young girls after they began devouring the series of books on which the movie is based.

Stewart is a child of Hollywood — the daughter of a stage manager and a script supervisor — and her Los Angeles upbringing provided a close up view of fame that has helped her handle the three-ring media circus of Hollywood celebrity.


Kristen Stewart

"I grew up on a set," she told Reuters at Sundance. "I don't take it as seriously, and then at the same time I take it more seriously than anyone. It's like a balance."

Adventureland is a coming-of-age movie about a recent college graduate named James, played by The Squid and the Whale star Jesse Eisenberg, who takes a summer job at an amusement park and falls in love with a tortured but sincere young carnival worker named Em Lewin (Stewart).

REUTERS

Ruffalo back to directing project

PEOPLE Actor Mark Ruffalo's first stint as a feature director, Sympathy for Delicious, is back on track after a personal setback put the project on hold. The indie feature, which originally was to include James Franco (Milk) in the cast, fell into limbo after the December death of Ruffalo's brother, Scott. The project is now back on track, with Orlando Bloom (Pirates of the Caribbean) taking over for the unavailable Franco. Laura Linney, who recently won a Golden Globe for her performance in HBO's John Adams, is also on board. REUTERS

Actors sign on to Streep starrer

PEOPLE Hunter Parrish, star of the Broadway musical Spring Awakening and a regular on the series Weeds, has joined the cast of an untitled romantic comedy from writer-director Nancy Meyers (Something's Gotta Give). Also joining the Universal Pictures project are Zoe Kazan, who has a supporting role in Revolutionary Road, and Lake Bell, who most recently appeared on-screen in Pride and Glory. The Meyers film stars Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin and Steve Martin. REUTERS

Sex and the City pack agree to sequel, report claims

Us Weekly reports in its newest issue that Sarah Jessica Parker, 43, Kim Cattrall, 52, Cynthia Nixon, 42, and Kristin Davis, 43, have agreed to appear in the sequel to Sex and the City: The Movie. USWEEKLY.COM

Reel Time

🌐🌐🌐🌐🌐 A CLASSIC; 🌐🌐🌐🌐 EXCELLENT; 🌐🌐🌐 GOOD; 🌐🌐 FAIR; 🌐 POOR

Saving Brendan Fraser

InFocus

Richard Crouse

mrchaos33@hotmail.com

Brendan Fraser's latest movie Inkheart is a good example of what's wrong with his career, says columnist Richard Crouse.

Critics used to love Brendan Fraser. Early on Roger Ebert called him "subtle and attuned" and Barbara Ellen in The Times raved that he was "a revelation — so measured, suave and intrinsically watchable."

That was then. This is now.

Lately the tone of his reviews has taken a turn. "Noticeably uninvolved" and "worn out" are just two descriptions of his current work in movies like The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor. One blogger even wrote, with simple hatful eloquence, "His face makes me angry."

I thought of this as I watched Inkheart. A big budget fantasy adventure, it encapsulates everything that's wrong with Fraser's career. It's another forgettable performance in an unremarkable movie that allows the premise and the CGI to overshadow everything else. According to av club.com, in recent years this guy has spent so much time in front of a green screen "his children probably have traces of CGI in their DNA."

Of course Fraser would counter that he's not making films for the critics, but judging by the gross of the last Mummy movie, he's not making them for audiences either.

But let's put the snarkiness aside for a moment and remember a time when Fraser was actually considered a real actor. Years before he discovered the financial benefits of emoting in front of a green screen he made small, interesting, character-driven films.

For example, in Gods and Monsters Fraser played Clay Boone, a young straight ex-Marine who forms a bond with James Whale, the elderly gay director of Frankenstein played by Ian McKellen. Fraser's take on Clay is complicated but sympathetic as he forms a platonic relationship with the older man who becomes the father figure he never had. In this film Fraser holds his own against the masterful McKellen.

The Quiet American sees Fraser as Alden Pyle, an idealist who must learn to deal with moral ambiguity. Again his work is well crafted and thoughtful.

Further acting high points include the image obsessed district attorney in Crash; and Journey to the End of Night's Paul, a degenerate gambler who double-crosses his father and tries to run off with the cash.

Not since Orson Welles voiced commercials for a frozen pea company has one actor squandered his talent so flagrantly, so let's remember Fraser for the good ones — the ones listed above as well as 1997's Still Breathing — and hope that he gets over his green screen addiction sooner rather than later.

Richard Crouse is the author of Son of the 100 Best Movies You've Never Seen and film critic for CTV's Canada AM.

Inkheart better on page than screen

Inkheart

Director: Iain Softley
Stars: Brendan Fraser
Classification: STC
Rating: 🌐🌐½

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada

A scene from Inkheart.

REVIEW In his new movie Inkheart, Brendan Fraser utters this slice of reverberating dialogue: "The written word is a powerful thing. Better be careful with it."

Nowhere is this perhaps better demonstrated than in the new fantasy adaptation of Cornelia Funke's hit novel in which Fraser — as bookbinder Mo Folchart — possesses the supernatural ability to bring fictional characters to life just by reading them aloud.

Sure, that might sound like a cool party trick but while Folchart uncovered his talent reading a tome called Inkheart, he also discovered that a real person is traded in reciprocation — namely, his wife.

Now, a decade later, the only way to rescue her is to find a copy of Inkheart and read her back out of the novel.

Along the way, Folchart and his daughter (Eliza Bennett) meet a dizzying array of characters including the book's desperate hero (Paul Bettany), a conspiring antagonist called Capricorn as well as flying monkeys, a unicorn, Rapunzel and Toto from The Wizard of Oz. It would all be deliciously surreal if it weren't under the guise of a nonsensical family film.

While director Iain Softley is able to engage with big epic stunts and grand effects, Inkheart ironically loses its audience with a convoluted story that never fully satisfies many of its own questions. The notion of swapping real folks with characters in a book is intriguing, but the film never fully gives it reason.

As Folchart states, the written word is a powerful thing. Indeed, after sitting through Inkheart, one can only imagine just how much more effectual Funke's written words must be at getting the point across.

On the web

- To see an Inkheart trailer, and screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies

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Guest Speaker:
Allison Bastow, Regional Vice President
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Reel Time

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

Movie morsels

Bride Wars

REVIEW Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway actually made a few funnies in the film Bride Wars. The generically-titled flick about two BFFs turned frenemies in the preamble to their coinciding nuptials is just in time for one of the most popular wedding-movie months of the year. And although the storyline is gag-me-with-a-spoon predictable, the cynical, cut-throat humour comes with a good dollop of wit that offers a refreshing surprise.

Robyn Young/Metro Canada

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

REVIEW Based on a tale by F. Scott Fitzgerald, Button tells the life story of a man who is born with the physicality of an 80-year-old but mysteriously ages in reverse meeting impossible challenges along the way. If that vaguely sounds a bit Forrest Gumpish, don't be surprised — Gump's Eric Roth penned this human epic too. There's a lot of talk about Brad Pitt possibly sneaking an Oscar, and he definitely gives the best performance of his career.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Defiance

REVIEW Actor Daniel Craig has traded in the Aston-Martin for a ragged horse and frankly, I don't blame him. After all, playing James Bond can pretty much kill a career if you don't diversify your portfolio. But while Craig may surprise a few fans with Defiance, this true Second World War drama ultimately cannot live up to its own ambition.

Steve Gow/Metro Canada

Twilight

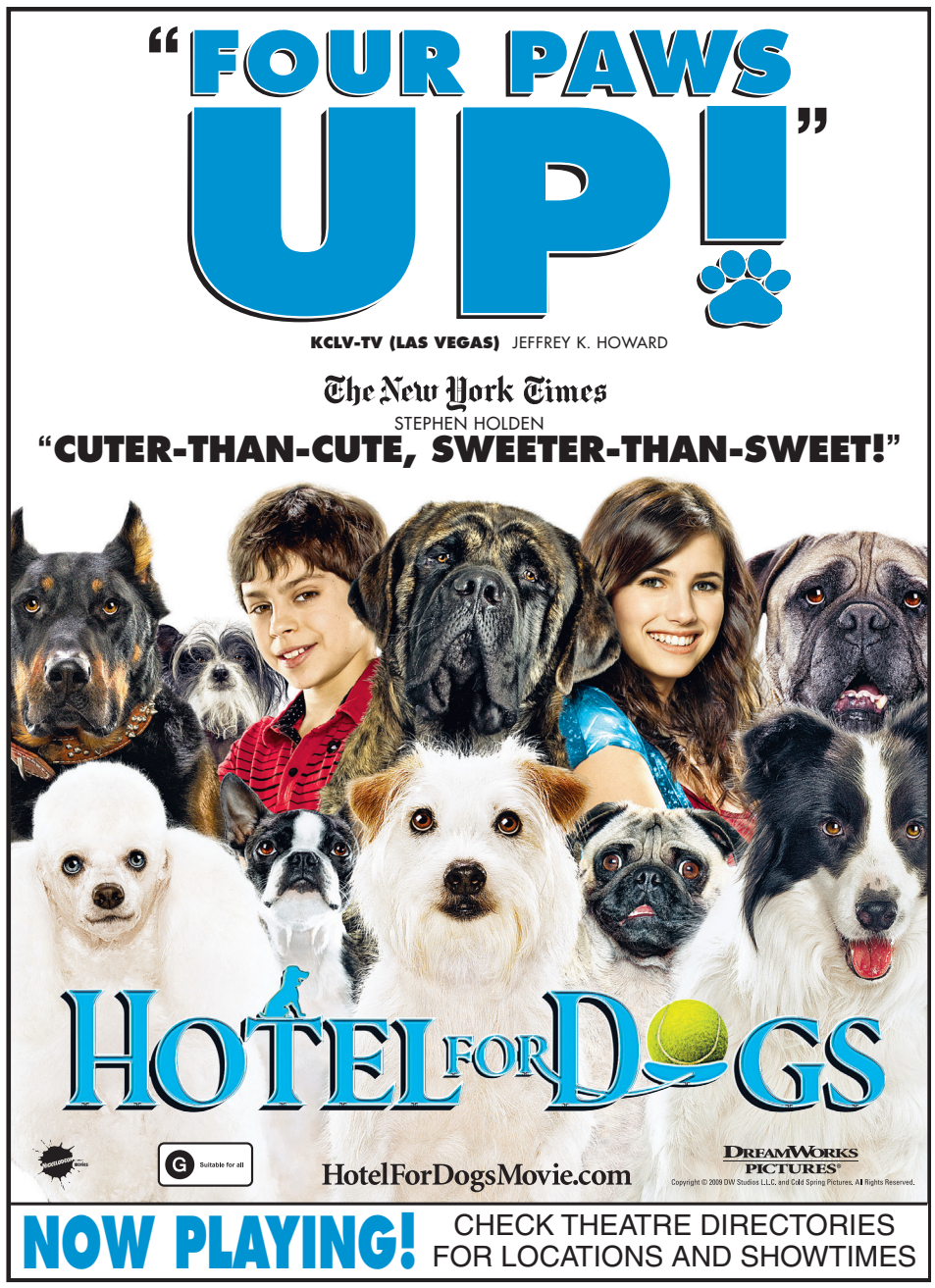
REVIEW Kristen Stewart stars as Bella, a young girl who moves to a small town and becomes instantly captivated by a classmate named Edward (Robert Pattinson) who is part of a very peculiar and insular family known as the Cullens. As Bella becomes more attracted to Edward, she discovers that the Cullens are a clan of vampires … but very safe emo-vampires who only drink animal blood and spend of most of their time silently emoting and looking pretty rather than preying on helpless victims.

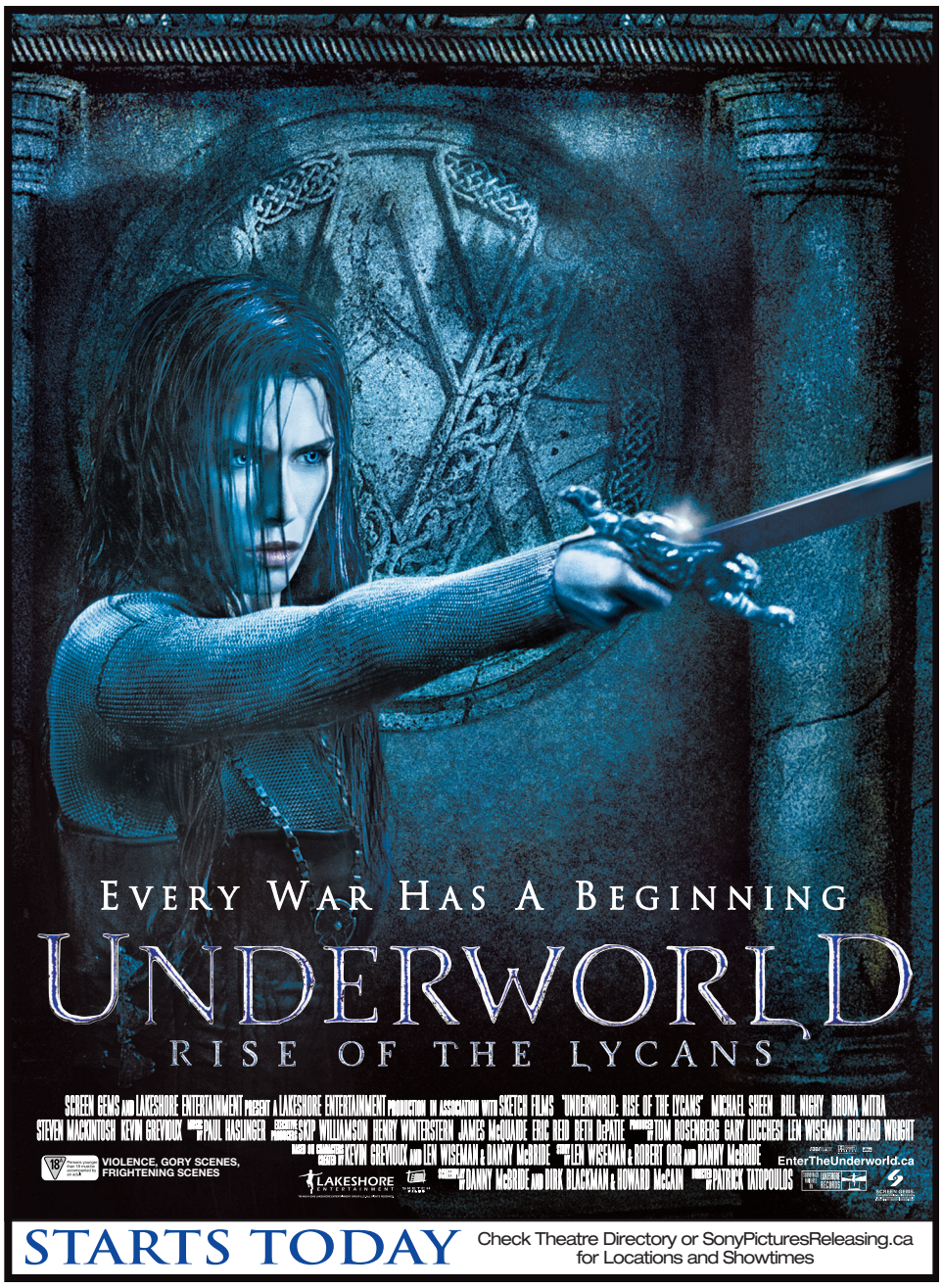
Phil Brown/Metro Canada

The Wrestler

REVIEW The Wrestler tells the tale of downtrodden, past his prime rope-rider Randy (The Ram) Robinson — played by Mickey Rourke — and the desperate web of misery he weaves in the twilight of his lifE. The film is a gritty, low budget, intimate and emotionally shattering peek into a heart without hope.

Chris Alexander/Metro Canada





Screen Times

This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THESE PAGES COVER MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., JAN. 23 TO THURS., JAN. 29. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES.

OTTAWA

BYTOWNE CINEMA
325 Rideau St., 613-789-3456

Best of the Banff Mountain Film Festival (STC) Mon-Tue 7:30
I've Loved You So Long (14A) Fri 4:30 Sat 2
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri 9:20 Sat 6:50 Sun 1:45-6:30 Wed 9:15 Thu 4:30
Religulous (14A) Wed 4:45 Thu 9:15
The Wrestler (14A) Fri 7 Sat 4:30-9:15 Sun 4:10-8:55 Mon-Tue 4:45 Wed-Thu 6:55

CANADIAN FILM INSTITUTE
2 Daly Ave., Suite 120, 613-232-6727

Le Cabinet du Docteur Ferron (STC) Sun 7
Le Fugitif ou Les vérités d'Hassan (STC) Sat 9
Glen Gould on Film (STC) Sat 7

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF NATURE
240 McLeod St., 613-566-4700

Planet Earth: Jungles (STC) Sat-Sun 11:30-1:30-3:30 Sat-Sun 12:30

COLISEUM OTTAWA
3090 Carling Ave., 613-596-9475

Bride Wars (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:20-7:20-9:40 Mon-Tue 4:20-7:20-9:40 Wed 4:20-9:40 Thu 4:20-7:20-9:40
Chandni Chowk to China (PG) Fri-Thu 3:30-6:45-10:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-4:30-8:10 Mon-Thu 4:30-8:10
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-6:30-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:30-9:25 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
Gran Torino (14A) Fri 1:10-4-7-9:55 Sat 4-7-9:55 Sun 1:10-4-7 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:55
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Sun 12:55-3:50-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:20
Inkheart (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:10-7:10-9:45 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-9:45 Star & Strollers Thu 1
Larger Than Life (STC) Wed 7
Marley & Me (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30
Metropolitan Opera: Orfeo ed Euridice - Gluck (STC) Sat 1
My Bloody Valentine (STC) Fri 2-5-8-10:30 Sat 5-8-10:30 Sun 2-5-10:30 Mon-Thu 5-8-10:30
Notorious (18A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:40-7:30-10:25 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:30-10:25
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Sun 12:35-3-5:20-7:40-10:05 Mon-Thu 5:20-7:40-10:05
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1:50-4:50-7:50-10:20 No Passes Mon-Thu 4:50-7:50-10:20
The Wrestler (14A) Fri-Sun 1-3:45-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:45-6:40-9:30
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) Sun 8

EMPIRE 7 CINEMAS
111 Albert St., 3rd Floor
World Exchange Plaza, 613-233-0209

Defiance (14A) Fri 3:20-6:30-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:20-6:30-9:25 Mon-Thu 3:20-6:30-9:25
Frost/Nixon (PG) Fri 3:40-6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:40-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 3:40-6:40-9:20
Gran Torino (14A) Fri 4:20-7:20-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:30-4:20-7:20-9:50 Mon-Thu 4:20-7:20-9:50
Milk (14A) Fri 3:50-6:50-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:50-6:50-9:35 Mon-Thu 3:50-6:50-9:35
The Reader (14A) Fri 3:30-6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 3:30-6:45-9:30
Revolutionary Road (14A) Fri 4:10-7:10-9:55 Sat-Sun 1-4:10-7:10-9:55 Mon-Thu 4:10-7:10-9:55
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) Fri 4-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:20-4-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 4-7-9:45

MAYFAIR THEATRE
1074 Bank St., 613-730-3403, mayfair-movie.com

Casino Royale (PG) Tue 7
For Your Eyes Only (STC) Sat 4:30 Mon 9:30
Jack Brooks: Monster Slayer (18A) Sat 9:30 Sun 7
Let the Right One In (14A) Wed 9 Thu 7
Mad Max Beyond Thunderdome (STC) Fri 9:30
Mean Streets (STC) Sat 11:30
Not Quite Hollywood: The Wild, Untold Story of Ozploitation! (STC) Fri 7
On Her Majesty's Secret Service (STC) Sat 1:30 Mon 7
Quantum of Solace (PG) Sun 4:30 Tue 9:45
Sick Nurses (STC) Wed 7 Thu 9:30
Sukiyaki Western Django (18A) Fri 11:30 Sat 7 Sun 9
Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory (STC) Sun 2

OTTAWA FAMILY CINEMA
710 Broadview Ave., 613-722-8218 familycinema.ca

The Tale of Despereaux (G) Sat 2

RAINBOW CINEMAS
St. Laurent Centre, 1200 St. Laurent Blvd., 613-688-0850

Australia (PG) Fri-Thu 10-1:25-4:45-8
Beverly Hills Chihuahua (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-2:40
Changeling (14A) Fri-Thu 8:50
Doubt (PG) Fri-Thu 10:30-4:55-7:10-9:30

Christian Bale stars in The Dark Knight, which is currently in theatres.

Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa (G) Fri-Thu 10:10-12:10-2:20-4:35-6:50
Quantum of Solace (PG) Fri-Wed 10:40-1-3:10-5:20-7:30-9:40 Thu 10:40-3:10-5:20-7:30-9:40 Thu 1
Rachel Getting Married (14A) Fri-Thu 10:20-7-9:20
The Tale of Despereaux (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-2:50-5:05

RIDEAU CENTRE CINEMAS
50 Rideau St., 613-234-3712

Bride Wars (PG) Dolby Stereo Digital Fri 4:30-7:15-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:15-9:30 Dolby Stereo Digital Mon-Thu 4:30-7:15-9:30
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 4:15-7-9:15 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 1:15-4:15-7-9:15 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:15-7-9:15
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) SDDS Digital Fri 4-6:45-9 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 1-4-6:45-9 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4-6:45-9

SOUTH KEYS
2214 Bank St., 613-736-1115

Bride Wars (PG) Fri-Thu 10:15-12:30-3-5:20-7:40-10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Thu 10-1:40-5:20-9
Defiance (14A) Fri-Thu 11:45-3:10-6:20-9:30
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Thu 10:10-12:55-3:40-6:30-9:20
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 10:20-1:15-3:45-6:55-9:25
Inkheart (PG) Fri-Thu 10:05-12:50-3:30-6:45-9:15
Last Chance Harvey (PG) Fri 10:35-1:35-4:10-7:20-9:35 Sat 10:35-4:10-7:20-9:35 Sun-Thu 10:35-1:35-4:10-7:20-9:35
Marley & Me (PG) Fri-Thu 10:25-1:20-4-7:15-9:45
Metropolitan Opera: Orfeo ed Euridice - Gluck (STC) Sat 1
My Bloody Valentine (STC) Fri-Thu 4:30-9:40
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Thu 10:10-12:25-2:50-5:10-7:30-9:50
Revolutionary Road (14A) Fri-Thu 10:30-1:30-4:20-7:10-10
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 10:05-1:05-3:50-7-9:55
Valkyrie (PG) Fri-Thu 10:50-1:45-7:05

GATINEAU

CANADIAN MUSEUM OF CIVILIZATION
100 rue Laurier, 819-776-7010

Grand Canyon Adventure: River at Risk (STC) Fri 12-3-8 Sat 12-3-8-10 Sun 12-3-6 Tue 12-3-8 Wed 12-3 Thu 12-3-8
Grand Canyon: Fleuve en Peril (STC) Fri 4-10 Sat 1 Sun 4 Tue 4 Wed 1-8 Thu 1
Momies: Secret des Pharaons (STC) Fri 1-9 Sat 10-4 Sun 10-1 Tue 1-7 Wed 4-9 Thu 4
Mummies: Secrets of the Pharaohs (STC) Fri 11-2-5-7 Sat 11-2-5-7-9 Sun 11-2-5 Tue 11-2-5-9 Wed 11-2-7 Thu 11-2-5-7-9

CINÉMA DES GALERIES D'AYLMER
400 boul. Wilfrid-Lavigne, 819-248-2526

Bride Wars (PG) Fri-Sun 12:40-2:50-6:40 Mon-Tue 6:40
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Sun 8:30 Tue 8:30
Inkheart (PG) Fri-Sun 12:50-3:10-6:50-9:10 Mon 6:50 Tue 12:50-3:10-6:50-9:10 Wed-Thu 6:50-9:10
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Sun 1-3:20-7-9:20 Mon 7 Tue 1-3:20-7-9:20 Wed-Thu 7-9:20
Sous la Cagoule: Voyage au Bout de la Torture (STC) Tue 1-3:30 Wed-Thu 7
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) Fri-Sun 1:10-3-7:10-9 Mon 7:10 Tue 1:10-3-7:10-9 Wed-Thu 7:10-9

CINÉ-STARZ
1100 boul. Maloney Ouest, 819-568-8000

007 Quantum (13+) Fri-Sun 5:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 12-3:45-9:20
Australie (G) Fri-Sun 4 Mon-Thu 2:05-9:05
Babine (STC) Fri-Sun 12-1:55-3:50-7:35 Mon-Thu 1:40-3:35-5:30-7:25
Le Chihuahua de Beverly Hills (G) Fri-Sun 12-1:35
High School Musical 3: La dernière année (G) Fri-Sun 12-2 Mon-Thu 12
Monsieur Oui (G) Fri-Sun 5:25-7:15-9:05 Mon-Thu 1:55-5:35-7:25-9:15
Sept vies (G) Fri-Sun 7-9:05 Mon-Thu 12-4:55-7
Valkyrie v.f. (G) Fri-Sun 3:15-7-9:05 Mon-Thu 2-4:05-6:15-8:20
Volt (G) Fri-Sun 12-1:40-3:20-5:20 Mon-Thu 12

GATINEAU 9
120 boul. de l'Hôpital, 819-568-6070

Coeur d'encre (G) Fri 6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-6:40-9:10 Mon 6:40-9:10 Tue 1-3:45-6:40-9:10 Wed-Thu 6:40-9:10
Les Femmes de l'ombre (STC) Fri-Thu 9:15
La guerre des mariées (G) Fri 7:05-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:40-3:05-7:05-9:25 Mon 7:05-9:25 Tue 12:40-3:05-7:05-9:25 Wed-Thu 7:05-9:25
Histoires enchantées (G) Fri 7 Sat 2:50-7 Sun 12:15-2:45-7 Mon 7 Tue 12:15-2:45-7 Wed-Thu 7
Le Lutteur (13+) Fri 7:20-9:45 Sat-Sun 12:50-3:30-7:20-9:45 Mon 7:20-9:45 Tue 12:50-3:30-7:20-9:45 Wed-Thu 7:20-9:45
Metropolitan Opera: Orfeo ed Euridice - Gluck (STC) Sat 1
Monde Infernal: La révolte des Lycans (STC) No Passes Fri 6:50-9:05 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:25-4-6:50-9:05 No Passes Mon 6:50-9:05 No Passes Tue 1:25-4-6:50-9:05 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:50-9:05
Les Noces rebelles (13+) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:50-7:10-9:40 Mon 7:10-9:40 Tue 1:20-3:50-7:10-9:40 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:40
Paul Blart: Flic du mail (STC) Fri 7:15-9:30 Sun 1:10-3:20-7:15-9:30 Mon 7:15-9:30 Tue 1:10-3:20-7:15-9:30 Wed-Thu 7:15-9:30
Rébellion (STC) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 12-3-6:30-9:20 Mon 6:30-9:20 Tue 12-3-6:30-9:20 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:20
Twilight: la fascination (G) Fri 6:20-9 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:15-6:20-9 Mon 6:20-9 Tue 12:30-3:15-6:20-9 Wed-Thu 6:20-9

STARCITÉ HULL
115 boul. du Plateau, 819-770-1090, cinemasfortune.ca

Bride Wars (G) Fri-Thu 12:45-3:15-6:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (G) Fri-Thu 8:30
Defiance (STC) Fri-Thu 12:25-3:30-6:35-9:30
Entre les murs (G) Fri-Thu 12:35-3:25-6:30-9:15
Gran Torino (13+) Fri-Thu 3:10-6:50-9:25
Hotel for Dogs (STC) Fri-Thu 1:35-4-7:15-9:35
Inkheart (G) Fri-Thu 12:40-4:05-6:50-9:25
Last Chance Harvey (G) Fri-Thu 4:30-9:50
Madagascar 2 : La grande évasion (G) Fri-Thu 12:50
My Bloody Valentine 3D (STC) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:05-9:35
Notorious (13+) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:20-6:40-9:20
Palace pour chiens (STC) Fri-Thu 1:10-3:50-6:45-9:15
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (STC) Fri-Thu 1:15-3:40-6:55-9:10
The Reader (13+) Fri-Thu 1:40-7:10
Revolutionary Road (13+) Fri-Thu 1:25-4:20-7-9:40
Slumdog Millionaire (STC) Fri-Thu 1-4:15-7-9:40
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (STC) Fri-Thu 1:20-3:55-7:05-9:45
The Wrestler (13+) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:45-6:55-9:20

BARRHAVEN

BARRHAVEN CINEMAS
131 Riocan Dr., 613-825-2463

Bride Wars (PG) Fri 6:45-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:40-6:45-9:30 Mon-Thu 5:50-8:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri 8:30 Sat-Sun 12:50-4:40-8:30 Mon-Thu 5-8:30
Gran Torino (14A) Fri 7:10-10:10 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:20-7:10-10:10 Mon-Thu 5:10-8:10
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri 6:30-9:20 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:50-6:30-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:20-8
Inkheart (PG) Fri 7-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:40-4-7-9:40 Mon-Thu 5:30-8:20 Star & Strollers Thu 1
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri 7:20-10 Sat-Sun 1-4:10-7:20-10 Mon-Thu 6-9
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) No Passes Fri 7:30-9:50 No Passes Sat-Sun 1:30-4:30-7:30-9:50 No Passes Mon-Thu 5:40-8:40

GLOUCESTER

SILVERCITY
2385 City Park Dr., 613-688-8800

Bedtime Stories (G) Fri-Thu 12:10-2:50-7:05
Bride Wars (PG) Fri 1:10-3:50-6:30-9:10 Sat 3:50-6:30-9:10 Sun-Tue 1:10-3:50-6:30-9:10 Wed 1:10-3:50-9:10 Thu 1:10-3:50-6:30-9:10
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-5:10-8:45
The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience (14A) No Passes Fri 12-3:30-6:50-10:10 Sat-Sun 12-3:30-6:50-10:10 Mon-Thu 1-4:30-8
Defiance (14A) Fri-Thu 12:20-3:20-6:25-9:55
Gran Torino (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:10-7:10-10
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri-Thu 12:05-2:25-4:45-7:15-9:35
Inkheart (PG) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:20
Larger Than Life (STC) Wed 7
Metropolitan Opera: Orfeo ed Euridice - Gluck (STC) Sat 1
My Bloody Valentine 3D (18A) Fri-Wed 1:25-4:25-7:35-10:15 Thu 1:25-4:25-10:15
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri-Tue 12:50-3:15-6:20-9 Wed 3:15-6:20-9 Thu 12:50-3:15-6:20-9 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Revolutionary Road (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:25-6:50-9:45
Seven Pounds (14A) Fri-Thu 9:25
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) No Passes Fri 1-4:7:20-10:20 Sat-Tue 1-4:7:20-10:20 Wed 4:7:20-10:20 Thu 1-4:7:20-10:20 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Twilight (PG) Fri-Sat 12:15-3-6:35 Sun 12:15-3 Mon-Thu 12:15-3-6:35
The Unborn (14A) Fri-Thu 12:25-2:40-5-7:40-10:05
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) No Passes Fri-Thu 12:35-3:35-7:25-10:25
Valkyrie (PG) Fri 1:20-4:05-6:55-9:40 Sat 4:05-6:55-9:40 Sun 1:20-4:05-6:55 Mon-Tue 1:20-4:05-6:55-9:40 Wed 1:20-4:05-9:40 Thu 1:20-4:05-6:55-9:40
WWE: Royal Rumble (STC) Sun 8
Yes Man (PG) Fri-Thu 9:50

ORLEANS

ORLEANS TOWN CENTRE 6 CINEMAS
250 Centrum Blvd., 613-834-0666

Babine (PG) Thu 8:10
Bride Wars (PG) Fri 7:20-9:45 Sat-Sun 1:50-4:20-7:20-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:20-8:30
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) Fri-Sun 8:45 Mon-Thu 7:50
Hotel for Dogs (G) Fri 6:30 Sat 3:30-6:30 Sun 1-3:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 5:30
Inkheart (PG) Fri 6:40-9:10 Sat-Sun 1:10-3:50-6:40-9:10 Mon-Thu 5:40-8:15
Last Chance Harvey (PG) Fri 7-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4-7-9:30 Mon-Wed 6-8:10 Thu 6 Thu 11
Palace pour chiens (G) Sat 1
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Fri 7:10-9:40 Sat-Sun 1:40-4:10-7:10-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:10-8:25
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) Fri 6:50-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:20-3:40-6:50-9:20 Mon-Thu 5:50-8

KANATA

KANATA 24
801 Earl Gray Dr., 613-599-1200

Bedtime Stories (G) SDDS Digital Fri 2:05-4:40-7:20 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:25-2:05-4:40-7:20 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 2:05-4:40-7:20
Bride Wars (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 2:40-4:55-7:10-9:30 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 12:25-2:40-4:55-7:10-9:30 SDDS Digital Mon-Wed 2:40-4:55-7:10-9:30 SDDS Digital Thu 2:40-4:55
The Curious Case of Benjamin Button (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 2:35-6:05-9:40 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:05-2:35-6:05-9:40 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 2:35-6:05-9:40
Defiance (14A) SDDS Digital Fri 2:20-5:25-7:10-8:30-10:10 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:20-2:20-5:25-7:10-8:30-10:10 SDDS Digital Mon-Wed 2:20-5:25-7:10-8:30-10:10 SDDS Digital Thu 2:20-7:10-10:10
Doubt (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 5:20-10:25 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 12:20-5:20-10:25 SDDS Digital Mon-Wed 3:15-8:15 SDDS Digital Thu 3:15
Frost/Nixon (PG) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 1:50-4:35-7:45-10:30 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11-1:50-4:35-7:45-10:30 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:45-5:35-8:25
Gran Torino (14A) SDDS Digital Fri 1:45-4:30-7:25-10:15 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11-1:45-4:30-7:25-10:15 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:30-7:25-10:15
Hotel for Dogs (G) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 1:50-2:20-4:15-4:45-7:05-9:35 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:25-11:55-1:50-2:20-4:15-4:45-7:05-9:35 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 2:20-4:15-4:45-7:05-9:35
Inkheart (PG) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 1:55-4:30-7:05-9:45 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:15-1:55-4:30-7:05-9:45 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 4:30-7:05-9:45
Last Chance Harvey (PG) Dolby Stereo Fri 2:25-5-7:30-10 Dolby Stereo Sat-Sun 11:35-2:25-5-7:30-10 Dolby Stereo Mon-Thu 2:25-5-7:30-10
Marley & Me (PG) SDDS Digital Fri-Sun 1:30-4:20-7:15-9:55 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:20-7:15-9:55
Milk (14A) SDDS Digital Fri-Thu 10
My Bloody Valentine (STC) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri-Sun 1:30-4:15-7-9:25 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:15-7-9:25
Notorious (18A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 3:30-6:15-9:10 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 12:30-3:30-6:15-9:10 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 3:30-6:15-9:10
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 1:35-2:35-4:05-5:05-6:35-7:35-9:05-10:05 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:10-12:10-1:35-2:35-4:05-5:05-6:35-7:35-9:05-10:05 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 2:35-4:05-5:05-6:35-7:35-9:05-10:05
Quantum of Solace (PG) SDDS Digital Fri 5:10-9:55 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 12:20-5:10-9:55 SDDS Digital Mon-Wed 5:10-9:55 SDDS Digital Thu 5:10
Revolutionary Road (14A) Dolby Stereo, Special Engagement Fri 1:35-4:15-7-9:50 Dolby Stereo, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 1:15-4-7-9:50 Dolby Stereo, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2-4:45-7:30-10:15
Slumdog Millionaire (14A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 2-4:50-7:40-10:25 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:05-2-4:50-7:40-10:25 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:30-5:15-8:05
The Tale of Despereaux (G) SDDS Digital Fri 2:20 SDDS Digital Sat-Sun 11:50-2:20 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 2:20
Twilight (PG) SDDS Digital Fri-Wed 4:40-7:25-10:20 SDDS Digital Thu 4:40
The Unborn (14A) SDDS Digital Fri-Wed 2:50-7:50 SDDS Digital Thu 2:50
Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (18A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 2:15-3-4:45-5:30-7:15-8-9:35-10:20 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:45-12:30-2:15-3-4:45-5:30-7:15-8-9:35-10:20 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:15-3-4:45-5:30-7:15-8-9:35-10:20
Valkyrie (PG) SDDS Digital Fri-Sun 1:40-4:25-7:30-10:15 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 4:25-7:30-10:15
The Wrestler (14A) SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Fri 2:10-4:45-7:20-10:10 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Sat-Sun 11:30-2:10-4:45-7:20-10:10 SDDS Digital, Special Engagement Mon-Thu 2:10-4:45-7:20-10:10
Yes Man (PG) SDDS Digital Fri-Sun 2:50-7:50 SDDS Digital Mon-Thu 5:45

The bestselling albums at Amazon.ca
1. Performing This Week ... Live At Ronnie Scott's, Jeff Beck, right; **2.** Slumdog Millionaire, Original Soundtrack; **3.** Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog, Various; **4.** Fleet Foxes, Fleet Foxes; **5.** Hit Man: Various. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Music

Newman guilty as charged

New Pornographers frontman turns up the volume on new solo album

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

Don't worry if A.C. Newman's solo career confuses you. Usually, when a frontman for a successful band — in this case Vancouver's The New Pornographers —releases a solo album, it often sounds much different from the guy's day job. But not so with Newman, whose rich, Beach Boys-like pop stylings appears on everything he touches. Plus, to him, every record he releases comes from the same place.

GETTY IMAGES FILE

A.C. Newman, frontman for The New Pornographers, has released a new solo album.

"I think Get Guily is a louder record than Challengers is," says Newman, comparing his latest solo effort to his last New Pornographers record in the same breath. "I think I'm always trying to change it up, it doesn't matter whether it's a Pornographers album or not."

Clearly, he doesn't view his New Pornographers-self as separate from his solo career. And, while Neko Case and Dan Bejar aren't singing on Get Guilty — Newman's second album sans supergroup — it's still got the same harmony laden tracks and sunny upbeat vibe that's made the now New York-based songwriter's band what it is.

So, if his own material isn't that different from his band's music, why put out a solo album at all? "There is no really good reason for it," he says. "I just do it because I can."

Newman points out that he wrote his first album — 2004's Slow Wonder — after thinking The New Pornographers were breaking up. Neko Case decided to embark on her own solo career, which meant his band wasn't touring. Instead of waiting around, he recorded Slow Wonder during the time off.

This time, however, Get Guilty, was written so he could "record the next New Pornographers record with a clean start in my head.

"I wrote it as kind of a palate cleaning," he explains further. "It's hard to describe, but for some reason, at the end of making Challengers, I decided I was going to write a solo record. There's one song on the disc that I started writing while the Pornographers were mixing. I left the studio and played it into my phone."

As he's talking Newman, again, wonders aloud why he decided to record another solo album, as if he just realized that it's somewhat redundant. "There's not really any logic to this," he remarks. "I guess it seemed to soon do another Pornos record."

But, logistically, it did make more sense for him to create a non-NP album, considering who else is releasing a record this year.

"I wanted to make sure the Pornos and Neko don't put out records near each other," he says, finally hitting on the most rational explanation for releasing a solo album. "If this had been a Pornographers record it would have been out in January and Neko's record would have been out two months later. She can feel free to stomp all over my solo album, but the Pornos and Neko shouldn't conflict with each other."

Metro recommends

• **NOTORIOUS, ORIGINAL MOTION PICTURE SOUNDTRACK:** Biggie-sized soundtrack features classic tracks, a duet with his son, a tribute from Jay-Z and early demo tape gems.

• **A.C. NEWMAN, GET GUILTY:** New Pornographers frontman explores the more elaborate facets of his power pop sound with tinges of psychedelia.

• **KETCH HARBOUR WOLVES, DEAD CALM HORIZON:** F: Refined indie-rock soaked in harmonies and sweeping layers of lush instrumentation. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TOP 10
MOBILE DOWNLOADS
1 Heartless Kanye West
2 Poker Face Lady GaGa
3 I'm So Proud Akon
4 Live Your Life T.I. ft. Rihanna
5 Right Now Akon
6 Single Ladies Beyoncé
7 Love Story Taylor Swift
8 Hot N Cold Katy Perry
9 Rock N' Roll Train AC/DC
10 Circus Britney Spears
rogers.com/musicstore
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02/19 - PASSENGER ACTION @ CAFE DEKCUF • 02/26 - BRIGHTS, THE A.K.A.'S @ CAFE DEKCUF • 03/12 - LUKE DOUCET & THE WHITE FALCON @ CAPITAL MUSIC HALL • 03/28 - THE WEAKERTHANS, CONSTANTINES @ BRONSON CENTRE
04/02 - PASSION PIT, CALE PARKS @ ZAPHODS (RE-SCHEDULED DATE) • 04/18 - BELL ORCHESTRE @ FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH • 04/19 - DD/MM/YYYY, METZ @ MAVERICKS • 04/24 - PARKWAY DRIVE, STICK TO YOUR GUNS, MY CHILDREN MY BRIDE @ BABYLON
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This Day In Music History
On this day in 1989 James Brown is sentenced in Georgia to six years in jail in connection with a police chase through two different states. REUTERS

Music

The book on tattoos

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

Getting a tattoo? Whatever you do, don't copy your favourite celebrities.

It's among the handy tips of tattooing dos and don'ts to be found in Kat Von D's new book, High Voltage Tattoo, a photo-driven compendium of one of the world's most notorious tattoo artist's previous work, artistic influences and childhood memories. The star of TLC show L.A. Ink and partner of Mötley Crüe bassist Nikki Sixx delves into the often misunderstood world of tattoo art and the stories behind her markings and those of her best friends and previous clients.

"It was a long time coming," says Von D (nee Katherine Von Drachenberg). "The show educates people about the tattoo world and the book is a more in-depth personal look at it."

The Los Angeles-based tattoo artist and soon to be film star (appearing in 2009 vampire flick The Bleeding) has tattooed celebrities such as Jackass' Steve-O and Bam Margera among others. She showcases designs as elaborate and dynamic as something found in an art museum, from reproductions of Pablo Picasso's Guernica on the side of a torso, to more comedic works. Her personal favourites are two portraits of a friend's grandparents. Over the grandfather lies a banner saying, "Mona, get me a beer!" The grandmother's depiction replies, "Get it yourself!"

"Tattoos are a collaborative thing," the 26 year old says. "The dynamic between artist and client is a pretty free one. The client comes in with an idea and they create a vision together."

PHOTO COURTESY HIGH VOLTAGE TATTOO

The world of tattoos isn't all wild rock 'n' roll abandon, however. Von D says she's taken sharp criticism from purists in the business who accuse her of "selling out."

It's no cakewalk for a recipient, either. You'll sit in a chair in uncomfortable circumstances for a period of time, so Von D suggests you have a fair idea of what you want done.

"The best advice I'd give anyone getting a tattoo for the first time would be to have a 100 per cent certain idea of what you want to get and not to get something because Nicole Richie has it," she said.

Franz Ferdinand embraces Soviet technology

SoundCheck

Alan Cross
alan@ongoinghistory.com

Tonight: Franz Ferdinand is set for release next week.

Franz Ferdinand singer Alex Kapranos looks pretty sharp for a man who, not 12 hours earlier, was in the middle of a sweaty club gig as part of a barnstorming promo ride for the group's third album. Drummer Paul Thomson isn't quite as chipper, although that can be attributed to a metabolism that doesn't process caffeine quite as efficiently. He perks up. Eventually.

After two albums in 18 months, it's been three years since the group's last album. So, what took so long? "Making this new record was different. The time it took wasn't so much a luxury as a necessity," sighs Kapranos.

"The adrenalin just runs out," offers Thomson.

There's been a substantial amount of fan speculation on the sound and direction of Tonight: Franz Ferdinand. Were the spiky, dual-tempo arrangements thrown in the bin? Was it going to have African influences? Or had it all gone Jamaican dub?

"There are elements to truth to all those things," Kapranos says. "We listened to African music and Dan Carey, our producer, comes from a dub background. But it's still a Franz Ferdinand record. I mean, I listen to Dizzy Gillespie, but it doesn't mean we're going to make a be-bop record."

Well, maybe, but Domino — FF's U.K. label — is going to put out a special version of the album mixed in a dub style. Kapranos and Thomas say it's an experiment. The version of the album that most people will hear, starting Tuesday, features experiments of its own, including the use of a long-forgotten Soviet-era synthesizer called a Polyvox.

"It was another case of reverse engineering where the Soviets went, 'Right, we can build our own version of these (things)' — and would get it kind of wrong," explain Kapranos. "But their 'kind of wrong' is 'kind of good.' And it's true with the Polyvox. There was an electronic engineer in Kiev, I think, and he wanted to build a Moog (a U.S.-built synth). He knew the theory of how a Moog was built and had heard what they sounded like but had never seen one. So he built this machine that looks like the control panel of a Soviet tank, with big knobs and dials Cyrillic labels everywhere. And it sounds … kind of vaguely like a Moog — but not really. It just sounds … cool."

The whole FF story is coming up on my Ongoing History of New Music the first week of February.

The Ongoing History of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

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Gemini Award-nominated for his performance at the Just For Laughs Festival!

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– Michael Posner, *The Globe & Mail*

"This man leaves his audiences convulsing every time."
- Bill Brownstein, *Montreal Gazette*

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Saturday, January 31, 2009 - 7:00 PM & 9:30 PM
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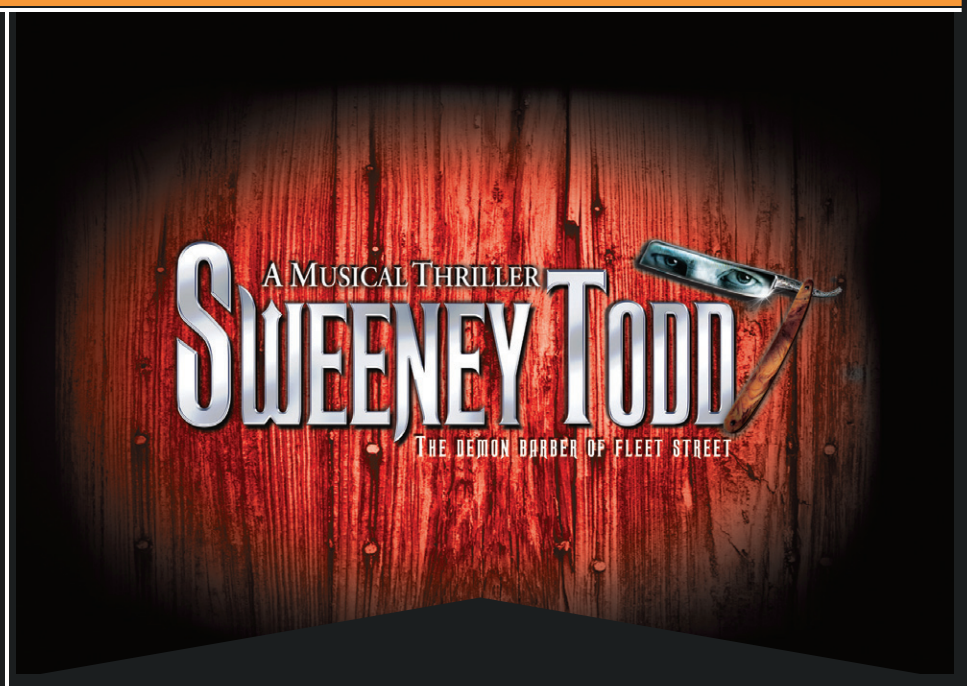
SATURDAY
January 31

CHERRY POPPIN' DADDIES



MONDAY + TUESDAY
February
16 + 17

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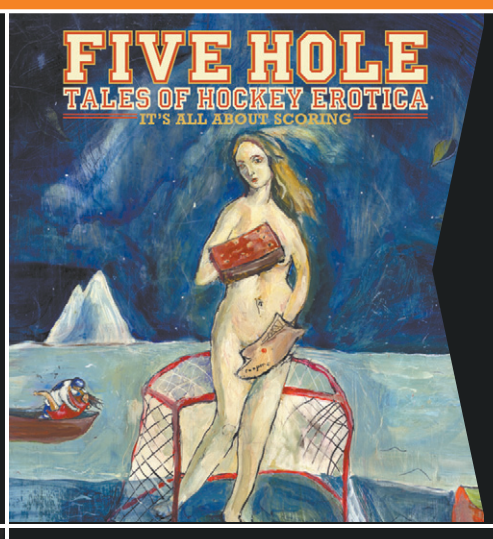
THURSDAY February 19

THE CANADIAN TENORS



FRIDAY February 27

FIVE HOLE - TALES OF HOCKEY EROTICA

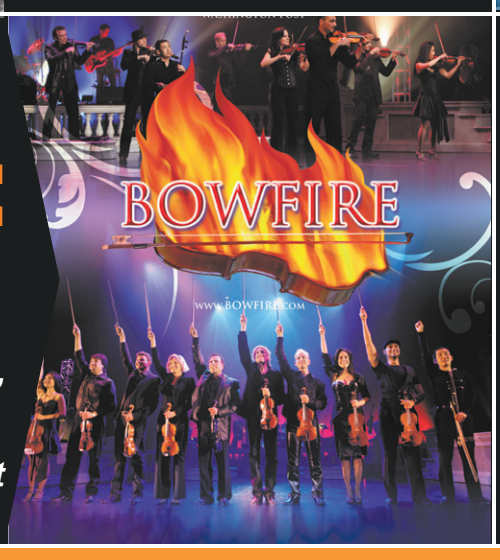
(Performed by
One Yellow Rabbit
+ The Rheostatics)

MONDAY + TUESDAY
March 16 + 17

BOWFIRE

"Enormously entertaining"

-Washington Post



TUESDAY February 24 — Classic Albums Live BOB MARLEY *"Legend"*

THURSDAY February 26 — JAZZ NIGHT!

WEDNESDAY March 18 — JOHNNY REID

SATURDAY March 21 — BLUES BROTHERS REVIVAL

WEDNESDAY April 8 — Classic Albums Live PINK FLOYD *"Dark Side Of The Moon"*

SATURDAY April 18 — BLUES NIGHT

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MINUTES FROM DOWNTOWN > FREE PARKING

THÉÂTRE CENTREPOINTE THEATRE

Dakota Fanning ... with fangs?
Eonline.com is reporting the 14-year-old has been cast to play Jane opposite Robert Pattinson in New Moon, the upcoming sequel to box office megahit Twilight. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Television

Oscars promise to be a snooze

IntelleVision

Rick McGinnis
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

RED CARPET BLUES: The awards season culminates next month in the Oscars, the worst show ever that millions of people watch with what we can only assume is the hope that a celebrity will embarrass themselves with a blubbering acceptance speech that bares their pitiful insecurity for all the world to see.

Actually, the conventional wisdom is that people watch the interminable movie awards ceremony to see a film they enjoyed win, with the corollary effect that the highest-rated Oscars are the ones where a blockbuster like Titanic or a Lord Of The Rings film does a sweep. If this is true — and there's more than enough evidence to assume that it is — then Marc Caro of the Chicago Tribune is right and ABC will be taking a bath on its broadcast this year.

"Nominations for the Oscars were announced yesterday, and conspicuously absent was The Dark Knight, a film whose massive box office clearly inspired reverse esteem in the Academy's voters."

Nominations for the Oscars were announced yesterday, and conspicuously absent was The Dark Knight, a film whose massive box office clearly inspired reverse esteem in the Academy's voters. Only a posthumous nod for Heath Ledger's Joker as Best Supporting Actor put The Dark Knight in any of the top categories, though it's well-represented in the technical categories (art direction, cinematography, sound mixing and editing,) when viewers usually get their pizza delivery.

Continuing a trend that's dominated the Oscars for a few years now, the films with the most high-profile nominations are either critical duds, box office underperformers — or both. "The Reader is a best picture (and director) nominee, and The Dark Knight is not," writes Caro with obvious disbelief. "Yes, the highbrow Holocaust film with lukewarm reviews is in the game!"

The 81st Annual Academy Awards

Even the best song category won't pull in viewers, as voters swatted away the chance to have Bruce Springsteen, Miley Cyrus, Beyoncé or even Clint Eastwood perform in favour of Peter Gabriel doing the credits song from Wall-E (i.e. the cue to head for the exits) and no less than two songs from Slumdog Millionaire, which will at least mean some Bollywood production values. It's at times like this that network executives outdo Hugo Chavez in their contempt for fickle, ungovernable democracy.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

FRIDAY

OT		Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	1/23/09	265	353	2	TVO	Centre of the Earth		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		Heartbeat		Allan Gregg	Film 101	Agenda-Paikin
		211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Howie Do It (N)	Howie Do It (N)	Friday Night Lights (N)		NUMB3RS (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
		209	342	6	CHRO	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Wife Swap		Supernanny (N)		Stargate SG-1 "Talion"		News (N)
		196	311	7	CTV	Hollywood	etalk	Ghost Whisperer (N)		Flashpoint (HDTV) (N)		Raising the Bar (N)		News (N)
		208	303	8	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Rick Mercer	Marketplace	Montreal Canadiens-100 Years		CBC News: The National		The Hour
		-	360	9	NBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Howie Do It (N)	Howie Do It (N)	Friday Night Lights (N)		Dateline NBC		News (N)
		-	362	13	CBS	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		Ghost Whisperer (N)		Flashpoint (HDTV) (N)		NUMB3RS (HDTV) (N)		Two/Half Men
		216	395	14	OMN2	Cold Case "Knuckle Up"		News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
		214	344	15	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Man Tracker	Man Tracker	Survivorman		Crusoe		News (N)
		218	345	18	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Party Monsters: Cabo		20/20 (HDTV)		News (N)
		-	361	20	ABC	News (N)	Entertainment	Wife Swap		Supernanny (N)		20/20 (HDTV)		News (N)
		-	365	36	FOX	TMZ (N)	Seinfeld	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		Don't Forget the Lyrics!		News (N)		News
news		500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
sports		406	417	27	net	World Cup Skiing: Women's		Ultimate Fighting Championship 83: Serra vs. St. Pierre 2				Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
		126	730	28	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Les Grands reportages		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
		400	280	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	Strongest Man	Strongest Man	NBA Basketball Toronto Raptors at Chicago Bulls. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre
family		554	544	48	TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Misadventures	Futurama	Father of Pride	Robot Chicken	Life's a Zoo
		557	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	*Camp Rock* (2008, Musical Comedy)			*Jumanji* ★★ (1995, Fantasy)			*Curly Sue* ★★★ (1991)	
		551	542	65	YTV	Scorpion	*Raise Your Voice* ★★ (2004, Drama) Hilary Duff, Oliver James.					Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
cable variety		615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Vengeance"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The Beast (HDTV)		Criminal Minds
		628	584	32	SPKE	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: NY (HDTV)		CSI: NY
		616	521	39	SHO	The Outer Limits		Da Vinci's Inquest		Testees	Kenny-Spenny	Webdreams	Sin Cities	Wife Swap
		520	505	42	DIS	Daily Planet (N)		Discovery Project Earth		Man vs. Wild "Sahara"		Deranged Ted Bundy. (N)		Daily Planet
		581	566	53	MTV	Girls-Latitude	City Live After	Made "Pop Singer"		Bromance		The City	The City	City Live After
		522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Suspicion"		Shockwave		Urban Legends	Urban Legends	Ax Men "The Final Haul"		Jobs in Danger
		603	561	95	FN	Chef at Home	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Kylie Kwong	Gourmets	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Ramsay Kitchn

SATURDAY

OT		Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	1/24/09	265	353	2	TVO	National Geographic (N)		*Slaughterhouse Five* ★★ (1972, Science Fiction)				The Interviews	*Being John Malkovich*	
		211	331	3	GTV	Global Currents: Thin Ice		Zero Hour		Mob Stories		Go Deep		News (N)
		209	342	6	CHRO	The Road to Avonlea		Lost "Destiny Calls"		Lost "Because You Left; The Lie" (HDTV)				News (N)
		196	311	7	CTV	W-FIVE-Swans		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		CSI: NY "Admissions"		Law & Order: Criminal Intent		News (N)
		208	303	8	CBC	NHL Hockey Honda/NHL All-Star SuperSkills Competition. (HDTV) (Live)					Montreal Canadiens-100 Years		*Pearl Harbor* (2001, War)	
		-	360	9	NBC	Peter's Pr.	Wheel-Fortune	Crusoe (HDTV) (N)		Figure Skating U.S. Championships -- Ladies Free Program.				Local 4 News
		-	362	13	CBS	Bring Wall St	The Insider (N)	Game Show	Game Show	CSI: NY "Admissions"		48 Hours Mystery (N)		CSI: NY
		216	395	14	OMN2	Chinese Rest.	Trendy Zone	*La Lingerie* (2008, Romance-Comedy) Stephy Tang, J.J. Jia.				Omni News: Mandarin		Chinese Rest.
		214	344	15	CITY	Without a Trace		Out There		*Tornado Warning* (2002, Suspense) Gerald McRaney.				News (N)
		218	345	18	E!	Chef School	E News	*A Life Interrupted* (2007, Docudrama) Lea Thompson.				Show Yours	G-Spot	News (N)
		-	361	20	ABC	Entertainment Tonight		Lost "Destiny Calls"		Lost "Because You Left; The Lie" (HDTV)				News (N)
		-	365	36	FOX	Bernie Mac	Seinfeld	Cops (N)	Cops	America's Most Wanted		News (N)		Spike Feresten
news		500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		D.L. Hughley Breaks the News		Newsroom
sports		406	417	27	net	UFC: Access	UFC Primetime	Ultimate Fighting Championship 74: Respect				Heads-Up Poker Champ.		Sportsnet Con.
		126	730	28	RDI	Le Journal RDI	Humanima	Découverte (HDTV) (SC)		Le Téléjournal	Les Grands reportages		La Facture	Le Téléjournal
		400	280	30	TSN	NFL Films	E:60		2009 Crashed Ice (HDTV) (Live)			Tennis Australian Open -- Round of 16.		
family		554	544	48	TEL	*Jetsons Meet the Flintstones* ★★ (1987), Daws Butler				Carl2	Futurama	*Spaceballs* ★★ (1987, Comedy)		
		557	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	*Something's Gotta Give* ★★★ (2003)			*Men in Black* (1997)	
		551	542	65	YTV	Team Galaxy	Team Galaxy	Zixx Level	Storm Hawks	Naruto	Bleach	Ghost	Ghost	Mystery Hnt.
cable variety		615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Dispo Day"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The Beast (HDTV)		The Sopranos
		628	584	32	SPKE	UFC Unleashed		UFC Unleashed		Ultimate Fighting Championship 91: Couture vs. Lesnar (HDTV) (N)				
		616	521	39	SHO	Mutant X		*Every Second Counts* (2008, Drama) Stephen Collins.				*X-Men: The Last Stand* ★★ (2006, Action)		
		520	505	42	DIS	Cash Cab (N)	Out in the Cold	Toughest Race: Iditarod		Destroyed	Time Warp	Criss Angel Mindfreak		*Guinea Pigs*
		581	566	53	MTV	MTV Live	After	Made "Pop Singer"		MTV News	Girls-Latitude	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs
		522	506	55	HIS	NCIS "Light Sleeper"		Ancestors	Ancestors	*Boogie Nights* ★★★ (1997, Drama) Mark Wahlberg, Burt Reynolds.				
		603	561	95	FN	Family	Glutton-Punish.	Top Chef Restaurants.			Good Eats	Hell's Kitchen		The F Word

SUNDAY

OT		Vu	SC	C		7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	1/25/09	265	353	2	TVO	Victoria's Empire		Human Computer		*Gunrush* (2008, Suspense) Timothy Spall.			The View From Here	
		211	331	3	GTV	Ancestors	King of the Hill	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Family Guy	American Dad	Family Guy	Family Guy	News (N)
		209	342	6	CHRO	Funniest Home Videos		Cold Case (HDTV) (N)		Hole in the Wall		Desperate Housewives		News (N)
		196	311	7	CTV	Star Wars Clo.	Degrassi: TNG	The Mentalist (HDTV)		*The Bourne Supremacy* ★★★ (2004, Suspense)				News (N)
		208	303	8	CBC	(6) NHL Hockey All-Star Game. (HDTV) (Live)				The Week the Women Went		CBC News: Sunday Night (N)		fifth estate
		-	360	9	NBC	Dateline NBC				*The Last Templar* (2009, Adventure) Mira Sorvino.				Local 4 News
		-	362	13	CBS	60 Minutes		Cold Case (HDTV) (N)		*Loving Leah* (2009, Romance) Lauren Ambrose.				CSI: NY
		216	395	14	OMN2	Tongues: History Language		Aaram	Arirang Korea	Word for Word	Trendy Zone	The Quest of Buffalo Spirit		Of Blessings
		214	344	15	CITY	TBA	Two/Half Men	*Tomorrow Never Dies* ★★★ (1997, Action) Pierce Brosnan.					Most Amazing	News (N)
		218	345	18	E!	Red Carpet Special: SAG		15th Annual Screen Actors Guild Awards				To Be Announced		News (N)
		-	361	20	ABC	Funniest Home Videos		Extreme Makeover: Home Edition "Tutwiler Family" (N)				Desperate Housewives		News (N)
		-	365	36	FOX	Smarter Than a 5th Grader?		The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Family Guy	American Dad	News (N)		Sportsworks
news		500	500	33	CNN	Newsroom		State of the Union		Larry King Live		Newsroom		D.L. Hughley
sports		406	417	27	net	World Cup Skiing		UFC: Access	UFC Primetime	Ultimate Fighting Championship 74: Respect				Sportsnet Con.
		126	730	28	RDI	Obama vers la Maison-Blanche					Cérémonie d'investiture		Regard	Le Téléjournal
		400	280	30	TSN	NBA Basketball: Kings at Raptors			SportsCentre	Boxing		World Extreme Cagefighting (HDTV)		
family		554	544	48	TEL	Totally Spies	Totally Spies	6TEEN	6TEEN	Carl2	Futurama	*Batman: Gotham Knight* (2008, Action)		
		557	540	51	FAM	That's-Raven	Zoey 101	Life Derek	Han. Montana	*Snow Dogs* ★★ (2002, Comedy), Sisqó			*My Dog Skip* (2000, Drama)	
		551	542	65	YTV	*Spy Kids 3-D: Game Over*		Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	The Next Star		Adrenaline Proj	Zixx Level	Mystery Hnt.
cable variety		615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami "Born to Kill"		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		CSI: Miami (HDTV)		The Beast
		628	584	32	SPKE	(6) *Resident Evil* ★ (2002)		Disorderly Conduct: Video		Disorderly Conduct: Video		Afro Samurai "Afro Samurai: Resurrection" (N)		
		616	521	39	SHO	The Guard (HDTV)		*New Waterford Girl* ★★★ (1999, Comedy)				Damages		The Guard
		520	505	42	DIS	MythBusters		Apocalypse How (N)				MythBusters Sayings. (N)		A. Bourdain
		581	566	53	MTV	Made "Pop Singer"		Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	Cribs	After
		522	506	55	HIS	Inside the Vietnam War		Inside the Vietnam War		*Hamburger Hill* ★★ (1987, War) Anthony Barrile, Don Cheadle.				
		603	561	95	FN	The Wild Chef	Exotic	Challenge		Iron Chef America		The Next Food Network Star		The Heat

Rick's TVPicks

Battlestar Galactica

Air date: Jan. 23
Network: Space

Cancer, depression, demoralization, rebellion, cuckoldry; it's another happy hour on the non-stop party spaceship as the show picks up speed for the final stretch. **SPOILER ALERT:** At least no one dies.

Confessions of a Teen Idol

Air date: Jan. 25
Network: MuchMoreMusic

YOU might have heard of at least three of the seven men making a second lunge for fame in this VH1 reality show hosted by Scott Baio. One of them won't be the guy from the first season of The Real World.

Project Runway Canada

Air date: Jan. 27
Network: Global

THE Canadian franchise of the fashion reality show gets upgraded from Slice to the mother network for its second season. If nothing else, the show has done the nation a service by proving at least our fashion designers can be bitchy on a global standard.

–RICK MCGINNIS/ METRO CANADA

CHECK LOCAL LISTINGS FOR SHOWS' AIR TIMES

Disney plans to combine two of its TV operations

TELEVISION Walt Disney Co. said on Thursday it would combine two television divisions, ABC Entertainment and ABC Studios.

The newly formed unit, to be called ABC Entertainment Group, will be managed by president Stephen McPherson, who had previously served as president, ABC Entertainment.

Disney said Mark Pedowitz, former president of ABC Studios, had moved into a new role as senior advisor to the office of the co-chairman, where he will work with Anne Sweeney, co-chair of Disney-Media Networks and president of the Disney-ABC Television Group.

The new division's primary mandate would be to develop and produce programming for broadcast on ABC.

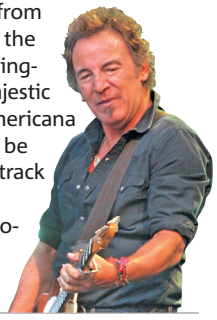
On Wednesday, Disney sent voluntary buyout offers to 600 executives at its domestic theme parks to cut costs. REUTERS

St. John's to host 2010 Junos
The Canadian Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences along with broadcast partner CTV announced yesterday that St. John's, N.L., will host the 2010 Juno Awards. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Bruce Springsteen

As the new boss — Barack Obama, that is — settles down in his job, the real Boss returns to business with this presciently titled album, Working on a Dream. With the U.S. finally getting a little love from the rest of the world, Springsteen's majestic slice of Americana might just be the soundtrack to the renewed romance.



2 Amy Winehouse

The velvet-throated train wreck is still keeping us on our toes. Has she found a new love? Will hubby Blake Fielder-Civil dump her? Has she really cleaned up, as claimed by daddy dear? Stack up the popcorn and stay tuned.

3 Slumdog Millionaire

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button might be the Oscar front-runner, but Slumdog is still the popular puppy. This rags-to-riches tale set in the unrelenting backdrop of Mumbai will probably be the most fun you'll have at the theatres now. The 10 Academy nods don't hurt, either.

4 2010 Honda Insight

Gearheads went all gooey over this revamped hybrid when it was recently unveiled at the Detroit and Montreal auto shows. Coming to Canadian dealers in April.

5 Heineken ad

Women have the walk-in closet. And now, thanks to this Dutch commercial, men have the walk-in beer cooler. YouTube it and watch yourself choke up at the very sight of this faux contraption.

6 Washington, D.C.

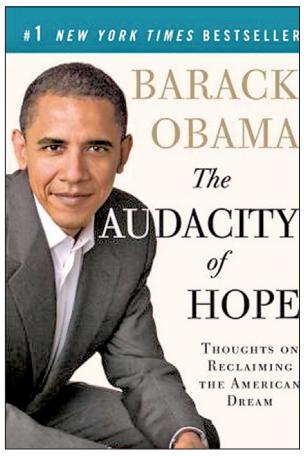
Has the hub of world power ever looked this sexy? Granted, you may never catch a glimpse of the O-Man himself but with free entries to most major attractions in the city, this is the place to go with the paltry travel budget the recession will allow.

7 Obama books

Want to see beyond the charismatic smile and the fiery speeches? Here are five books that will get you up-to-date about the new U.S. president:

The Audacity of Hope: Thoughts on Reclaiming The American Dream/Barack Obama: A vision for the future in his own words. A must-read.

Dreams from my Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance/
Barack Obama: A personal take on his own life, with charming insights into his mixed heritage and how that made him the man he is today.



Barack Obama: Son of Promise, Child of Hope/Nikki Grimes: This illustrated book is the perfect way to introduce your tiny ones to Obama.

Obama: From Promise to Power/David Mendell — A well-balanced biography.

The Obama Nation/Jerome R. Corsi: A well-researched case against Obama. Sounds blasphemous but worth a read.

Deal reached in reality TV suit

TV Several major U.S. TV networks and the producers of such reality shows as Trading Spouses and The Bachelor have agreed to pay more than $4 million to settle two lawsuits claiming violations of California wage rules.

The settlement will benefit more than 400 workers who were part of the three-year-old class-action cases, and some of those individuals stand to reap tens of thousands of dollars, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, Emma Leheny, said Wednesday.

In addition to Trading Spouses and The Bachelor, the shows covered by the suits included The Will, Are You Hot?, Joe Millionaire and My Big Fat Obnoxious Fiance.

The litigation coincided with a broader ongoing effort by the Writers Guild of America to obtain a labour contract for the creative workers behind unscripted TV productions as a whole, such as American Idol and Survivor.

"We really found pervasive violations. It seems to be a system based on the underpayment of workers in an industry where employers are looking to save money and speed up production, create very profitable shows, and the people who are shortchanged are these employees."
Lawyer Emma Leheny

Some of those programs rank among the biggest hits on U.S. television and are far cheaper to produce than traditional prime-time dramas and sitcoms.

The suits claimed reality show employees routinely put in as much as 80 hours a week without overtime, were denied work breaks for meals and were forced to falsify their time cards, all in violation of state wage and hour laws.

"We really found pervasive violations," Leheny told Reuters. "It seems to be a system based on the underpayment of workers in an industry where employers are looking to save money and speed up production, create very profitable shows, and the people who are shortchanged are these employees."

A spokeswoman for lawyers representing the defendant companies declined comment. Defendants included the networks CBS, ABC and Fox, and the production companies Rocket Science Laboratories and Next Entertainment.

REUTERS

Mix of Six

HOT WEEKEND EVENTS AROUND THE CITY
For more great events, visit: **metronews.ca/entertainment**

Tom Wilson

When Saturday, 8:30 p.m.
Where Blacksheep Inn, 420 Riverside Dr., Wakefield

The outspoken and fun-loving singer takes a break from his Blackie and the Rodeo Kings duties to perform a solo show. Advance tickets are $20 through www.ticketweb.ca

Life After God

When Friday through Jan. 21, 8 p.m.
Where Arts Court Theatre, 2 Daly Ave.

A scathingly funny play based on the work of Douglas Coupland and adapted by Michael Lewis MacLennan. Tickets are $25 and $20 for students through the box office, 613-564-7240.

Peter Pan

When Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m.
Where National Arts Centre, Southam Hall

J.M. Barrie's classic tale is brought to vivid life by the dancers of the Royal Winnipeg Ballet. Tickets range from $24.25 to $81 through Ticketmaster, 613-755-1111.

Tribute Band Extravaganza

When Friday, 8 p.m.
Where Barrymore's Music Hall, 323 Bank St.

Here's your chance to see four tribute bands with Ozzy Osborne cover band Majesty of Madness, Metallica cover band Dark Justice, Fleetwood Mac tribute band Rhumours and STYX cover band Return to Paradise. Tickets are $15 in advance, $20 at the door.

Sexual Perversity in Chicago

When Friday, 7 p.m., and Saturday, 5 p.m.
Where Carleton Tavern, 223 Armstrong St.

Chamber Theatre in Hintonburg presents David Mamet's raw and captivating play. Directed by Will Somers and featuring Garret Quirk, Matt Smith, Elise Gauthier and Lisa Aitken.

Fiestango

When Sunday, 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. in French, and 3 p.m.
Where National Arts Centre, Panorama Room

Kinderconcerts presents this family-friendly dance show about three mischievous cousins delving into the mysteries of a magical trunk. Tickets are $8 for children, $14 for adults and $36 for a family of four pass.

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Mendes is most desirable woman, says poll

Eva Mendes has been named the most desirable woman of 2009 by AskMen.com, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Spirit actress topped a poll of men who were asked to name their ideal woman. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Police investigate extortion attempt

INVESTIGATION Police in the Bahamas have launched an investigation surrounding an attempt to extort money from John Travolta's family, Obie Wilchcombe, a member of the Bahamian Parliament, confirmed to Us-magazine.com.

The full details of the plot have not been released, but Us magazine quotes Wilchcombe as saying only one person — not two, which has been reported — is involved. A Bahamian newspaper, The Tribune, has suggested that the extortion attempt is connected to the recent loss of 16-year-old Jett Travolta, who died of a seizure disorder Jan. 2 at the family's vacation home in the Bahamas.

Wilchcombe denied reports that the person behind the plot is a politician. "The lawyer who brought the situation to my attention is a politician," he clarifies.

Wilchcombe says he was approached about the extortion plot early last week and passed along the information to Travolta's lawyers, Michael Ossi and Michael McDermott, us-magazine.com adds.

"The irony was that the Travolta family just sent a letter of gratitude — it happened that afternoon," says Wilchcombe, referring to a Jan. 12 statement issued by McDermott, Travolta's lawyer, thanking the people of the Bahamas for their support.

"I thought it was a despicable act," Wilchcombe tells Us when he first heard news of the extortion plot. "One person should not destroy the character of the country."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

Aniston turning 40

PEOPLE Jennifer Aniston is planning a star-studded 40th birthday party, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The former Friends actress, who reaches the landmark age on Feb. 11, wants to celebrate early with a lavish bash at her new Beverly Hills home on Feb. 7.

The guest list will include Jennifer's boyfriend John Mayer, her close pal Courteney Cox and her husband David Arquette and singer Sheryl Crow.

It is believed the actress is planning the early festivities because John wants to take her away for a romantic break for her actual birthday.

The pair will leave for their intimate getaway — which will also take in Valentine's Day — straight after the party.

Rumours are rife that John is set to propose on Jennifer's big day, and has splashed out on a custom-made engagement ring for her.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Perry takes vow of celibacy?

RUMOUR Katy Perry is taking a vow of celibacy, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The I Kissed a Girl singer has revealed she won't be smooching anyone this year, after splitting from Gym Class Heroes frontman Travis McCoy.

When Grammy-nominated Katy, 24, was asked who she would like to kiss at the upcoming awards, she said: "I've actually taken a vow of celibacy this year ... no kissing anyone.

"Just my cat, Kitty Purry."

Katy and Travis' two-year romance is believed to have ended amid a flurry of arguments.

A source said: "It's sad, but they were fighting a lot in recent months because they never saw each other. "When somebody becomes very famous very quickly their relationship usually suffers.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Federline packs on the pounds

HEALTH Kevin Federline appears to have packed on major pounds, usmagazine.com reports.

He showed off a fuller figure while golfing with a pal in Los Angeles on Tuesday. His ex Shar Jackson explained to Us magazine last March that the 31-year-old rapper (who looked chunky last year), 31, had "daddy weight! When you are a full-time parent, sometimes you can't focus on you."

Meanwhile, Federline's romance with volleyball player Victoria Prince, 26, seems to be heating up.

TMZ.com reports that she took Sean Preston, 3, and Jayden James, 2, out for dinner in Fresno, Calif., over the weekend.

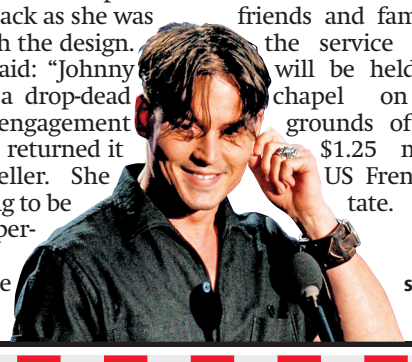
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Depp's partner returns engagement ring

RELATIONSHIP Johnny Depp's long-term partner Vanessa Paradis has returned an engagement ring he bought her, people.com reports.

The Pirates of the Caribbean star was recently spotted shopping for the band in California, but Vanessa — who he has been with for 10 years — reportedly took it back as she was unhappy with the design.

A source said: "Johnny got Vanessa a drop-dead gorgeous engagement band but she returned it to the jeweller. She wants her ring to be absolutely perfect."



The couple — who have two children, Lily-Rose, nine, and six-year-old Jack, together — are yet to officially announce they are planning to tie the knot, but are rumoured to be marrying in April.

The pair are keen to keep the ceremony as intimate as possible, and will only invite 50 of their closest friends and family to the service which will be held in a chapel on the grounds of their $1.25 million US French estate.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kardashian happy about Razzie

CAREER For Kim Kardashian, it's great just to be nominated — even if it is for a Razzie, people.com reports.

"I'm having a really good laugh," the actress writes on her blog. "I had so much fun filming Disaster Movie and giggled the entire time during the shoot."

The reality star, 28, adds, "There is steep competition in my worst supporting actress category, I have to admit ... including my fantastic co-star Carmen Electra (you go girl!)."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Oprah celebrates with Obamas

PEOPLE While she might not have hosted a fancy inauguration party herself, Oprah Winfrey did get to celebrate the occasion with Barack and Michelle Obama.

According to the Chicago Sun-Times, the new president and first lady capped off their big day just before 1 a.m. with a private champagne toast at the White House with a very select group of friends — including Winfrey, a vocal supporter of Obama throughout the campaign.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Hudson set to be back in spotlight

CAREER After dropping out of the public eye following her family murder tragedy, Jennifer Hudson now has the strength and the will to give three high-profile performances next month, a source close to her tells People magazine.

"So much has happened, but she's ready," people.com quotes the source as saying. "It's a new year, she's excited about performing again. She knew it was time."

Hudson, 27, will deliver the National Anthem at the Super Bowl on Feb. 1.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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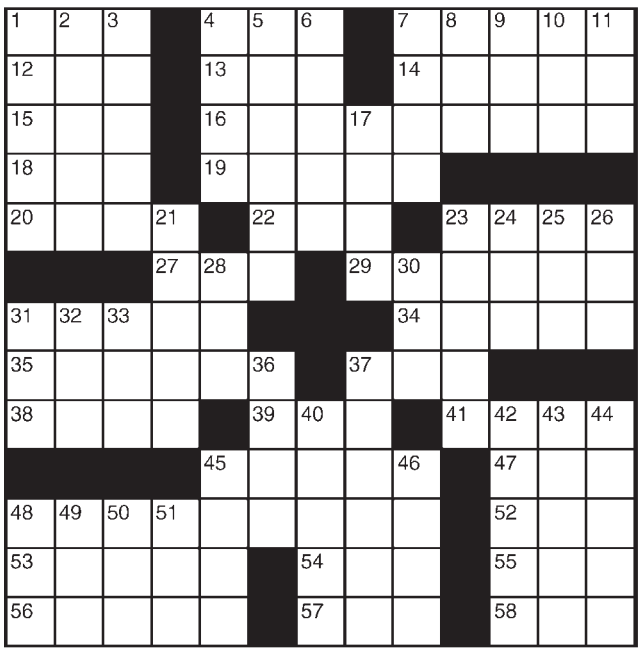

Crossword across

1 Hot tub
4 Chances, for short
7 Blubbers
12 Dress (up)
13 Dance flourish
14 Say one's piece
15 Lord's Prayer start
16 Noted newsweekly, with "The"
18 Lemieux milieu
19 Toaster's word
20 Masticate
22 Screw up
23 Test the waters
27 Choose
29 December stone
31 Point of view
34 Dastardly one
35 Chat
37 Fool
38 Authentic
39 Every iota
41 Drink too much
45 Thwart
47 Upper limit
48 1969 Fellini movie
52 Greek vowel
53 Bewildered
54 Rd.
55 Solidify
56 Energetic
57 Wrangler rival
58 Skill

Crossword down

1 Unemotional
2 Joey's place?
3 Match
4 Wordsworth works
5 Type of fence
6 Animal track
7 "Groovy"
8 Spinning meas.
9 Midafternoon, on a sundial
10 Em halves
11 Collection
17 Bygone game-show host Jack
21 "The Right Stuff" author
23 Watch this space?
24 Expert
25 "SNL" announcer Pardo
26 Remnant
28 Shell game item
30 Conditions
31 Performance
32 Neither mate
33 Wildebeest
36 Indonesian island
37 Niche
40 Lifelong resident
42 Alpha's antithesis
43 Dad, in Devonshire
44 Put on a pedestal
45 Talk like 37-Across?
46 Banjo supporter
48 Chucklehead
49 Foolhardiness personified
50 1/6 fl. oz.
51 "Uh-huh"

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

					2	7		
			1	6		5		
1	6	9				8		
9			7		6		8	
	4						1	
	8		4		9			7
		3				4	2	5
		2		5	8			
		5	3					

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

Y	A	O	■	A	G	E	S	■	F	L	A	P
E	M	U	■	N	I	C	E	■	L	I	N	E
S	I	T	T	I	G	H	T	■	A	M	E	N
■	■	R	U	M	■	O	U	R	T	O	W	N
T	R	I	B	A	L	■	P	I	C	■	■	■
B	U	G	■	L	I	T	■	V	A	M	P	S
A	S	H	Y	■	P	O	I	■	R	I	O	T
R	E	T	I	E	■	O	L	D	■	D	N	A
■	■	■	D	A	M	■	K	E	E	N	E	R
I	C	E	D	T	E	A	■	A	L	I	■	■
M	A	G	I	■	T	W	I	L	I	G	H	T
A	M	O	S	■	R	A	R	E	■	H	O	I
M	E	S	H	■	O	Y	E	R	■	T	E	X

5	7	3	1	4	8	6	2	9
8	9	4	5	6	2	1	7	3
6	1	2	7	3	9	4	5	8
2	5	1	9	7	4	8	3	6
3	4	8	6	2	5	9	1	7
9	6	7	3	8	1	5	4	2
4	8	6	2	1	3	7	9	5
7	3	9	4	5	6	2	8	1
1	2	5	8	9	7	3	6	4

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SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:
Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Cornish Beef Pockets

PASTRY INGREDIENTS:
3 1/3 cups (825 ml) plain flour
Salt
1/2 lb (250 g) butter, chilled and diced

FILLING INGREDIENTS:
11 oz (350 g) lean chuck steak, diced
1 onion, chopped
1 potato, peeled and diced
6 oz (175 g), butternut squash, peeled and diced
1 1/2 tbsp (20 ml) beef stock
2 tbsp (25 ml) chopped fresh parsley
Salt and pepper
Beaten egg, to brush
1 garlic clove, chopped
3/4 in. (2 cm) piece fresh ginger, peeled and chopped
1 red chili pepper, seeded and chopped

METHOD:
1. Pastry: Sift flour and pinch of salt into large bowl. Rub in butter with fingertips until mixture resembles breadcrumbs. Sprinkle 6 tbsp (90 ml) chilled water over mixture, then mix in. If dough seems dry, add more water. Gather dough then lightly knead until smooth. Wrap in plastic and refrigerate 20 minutes before using.
2. Filling: Put steak, onion, potato, squash, stock and parsley in bowl. Season with salt and pepper and mix well.
3. Preheat oven to 400 F (200 C). Divide pastry into eight pieces. Roll out each to an 8-in. (20-cm) round.
4. Spoon equal amounts of filling onto centre of each pastry round. Brush edges with egg, then bring together at top. Press edges firmly together to seal, then crimp.
5. Place pockets on two non-stick baking trays. Brush with beaten egg. Make small holes in tops to let steam out.
6. Bake 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 325 F (160 C); cook 45 minutes to 1 hour, until pastry is golden and filling is cooked. Serve hot, warm or cold.

SERVES 8

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You'll disagree with a practical person. Problems may thwart your plan to meet someone. Don't insist on talking about flirtations.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Laughing is better than arguing with a misery-guts. Try to understand that a woman is tempted. Have fun with an old friend.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A non-stop talker will stand up for you. Nobody can diminish your high spirits. Change your routines to avoid seeing a jerk.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Take a thrilling new direction after a phone call. Water problems can cause distress. Don't be hoodwinked by momentary rewards.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
People will be riled up by unreliable gossip. Be careful what you put in e-mails. Exhaustion has unforeseen consequences.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
A flirtation will result from a strong emotional connection. Your heart's desire can be fulfilled. Dreadful behaviour will cause you to feel insecure.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
You'll advise someone to avoid taking risks. Find the strength to speak out about respect. Quiet moments will ease your weary spirit.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Your nurturing strengthens a weak man. Your daily life is being challenged by a stupid mistake. There'll be no secret messages.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A breathtaking adventure will change your outlook. End an awkward situation immediately. You can have a good impact on an idiot.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
You can be certain of a chance for glory. An interesting story will explain poor behaviour. You'll struggle to strengthen an emotional bond.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Don't lose sleep over a minor problem. You have the courage to do fascinating things. Take other people's wickedness into account.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A friend's defiance will result in more respect. Don't take chances with your health. An elder is suffering from embarrassment.

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